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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
RISE, PROGRESS, AND DECLINE
OF
THE FEVER
LATELY EPIDEMICAL IN IRELAND,
TOGETHER WITH
COMMUNICATIONS
FROM PHYSICIANS IN THE PROVINCES,
AND
VARIOUS OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

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PITAL IN CORK-STREET, SECRETARY TO
THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
IN IRELAND, &c.

AND BY

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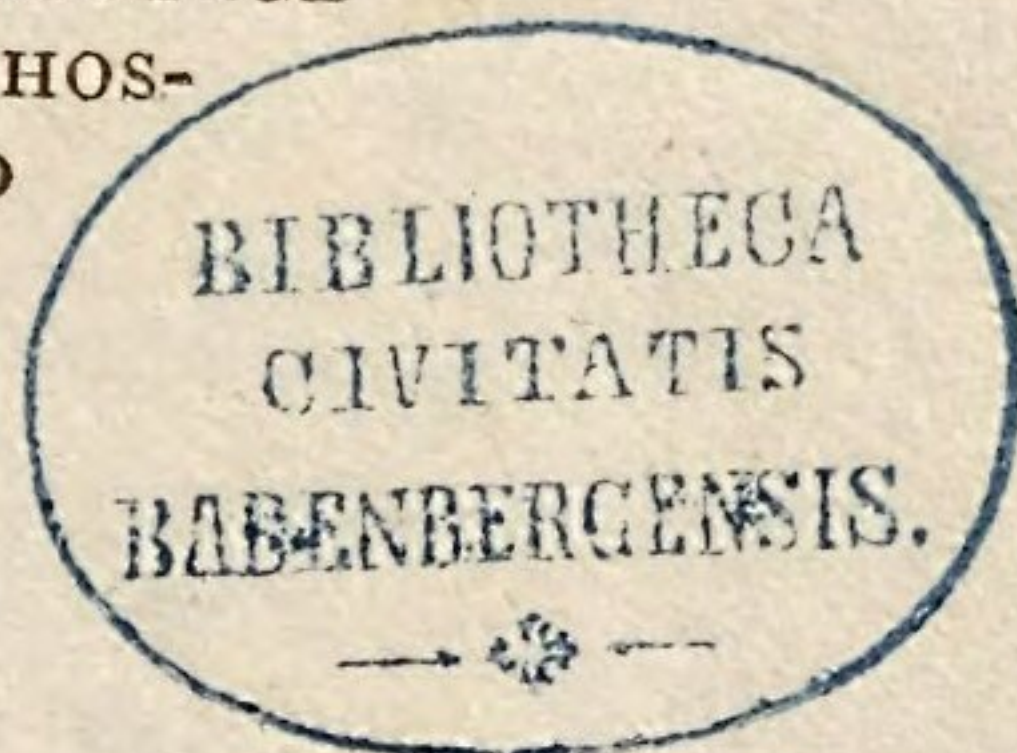
PHYSICIAN GENERAL TO HIS MAJESTY'S ARMY IN IRELAND,
MEMBER OF THE ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY, OF THE
ROYAL MEDICAL SOCIETY OF COPENHAGEN, &c.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

PROGRESS AND PRESENT

OF

THE REVUE

DE LA LITTÉRATURE MÉDICALE

EN FRANCE

COMMUNIQUEES

PAR LES MÉDECINS DE LA FACULTÉ

DE

PARIS

PAR M. J. L. LAFITTE

PROFESSEUR DE MÉDECINE GÉNÉRALE

À LA FACULTÉ DE MÉDECINE DE PARIS

ET DE LA CHAIR D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

DE LA MÊME FACULTÉ

PARIS

1844

1845

1846

1847

1848

1849

1850

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

VOL. II.

SECTION IV.

	PAGE
Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the state of disease in Ireland . . .	1

NO. I.

Report on the state of Fever in the Province of Munster, by Dr. Barker	9
--	---

NO. II.

Report on the state of Fever in the Province of Connaught, including the County of Clare, by Dr. Crampton	68
---	----

NO. III.

Report on the state of Fever in the Province of Ulster, by Dr. James Clarke	113
---	-----

NO. IV.

Report on the state of Fever in the Province of Leinster, by Dr. Cheyne	136
---	-----

	PAGE
Recapitulation of the number of patients admitted to the hospitals in each of the Provinces	190

SECTION V.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.—NO. I.

Letter from Mr. Peel, constituting a Committee to examine into the applications made to Government for pecuniary aid	195
--	-----

NO. II.

Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Contagious Fever in Ireland, dated May 8th, 1818	197
--	-----

NO. III.

Notice to the public from the Fever Committee . .	206
---	-----

NO. IV.

Sums distributed by order of the Lord Lieutenant, under the direction of the Fever Committee . .	207
---	-----

NO. V.

Act of Parliament to establish Fever Hospitals, &c. 30th May, 1818	213
---	-----

NO. VI.

Circular relating to Boards of Health	230
---	-----

NO. VII.

Form of approval of Board of Health	232
---	-----

CONTENTS.

v

PAGE

NO. VIII.

Important Advice to the Public 234

NO. IX.

Circular addressed to the Governors of Fever Hospitals 240

NO. IX.—A.

Letter from the Managing Committee of the Fever Hospital Cork-street, to the Right Hon. Charles Grant 242

NO. IX.—B.

Letter from the Physicians of the Fever Hospital . 247

NO. IX.—C.

Letter from the Governors of the House of Industry, in reply 251

NO. IX.—D.

Report of the Physicians of the House of Industry . 260

NO. IX.—E.

Report of the Governors of Sir P. Dun's Hospital, in reply 264

NO. IX.—F.

Report from the Physicians of Sir P. Dun's Hospital 270

NO. IX.—G.

- Report from the Managing Committee of the Whitworth Fever Hospital, in reply 273

NO. IX.—H.

- Report of the Physicians of the Whitworth Fever Hospital 277

NO. X.

- Circular from Mr. Grant, to the Physicians of Dispensaries in the vicinity of Dublin 281

NO. X.—A.

- Governors of the Newcastle Dispensary in reply . 282

NO. X.—B.

- Governors of the Swords Dispensary in reply . . 285

NO. X.—C.

- Governors of the Bray Dispensary in reply . . . 288

NO. X.—D.

- Governors of the Leixlip Dispensary in reply . . 292

NO. X.—E.

- Governors of the Rathdown Dispensary in reply . 295

NO. XI.

- Circular from the Right Hon. C. Grant, relative to the establishment of a Central Committee, &c. . . 300

NO. XII.

- List of the Members of the Central Committee of
Health 302

NO. XIII.

- Duties of the Central Committee of Health . . . 303

NO. XIV.

- Letter to William Gregory, Esq. from Dr. Taylor,
Secretary to the Central Committee of Health . 306
Reply from Mr. Gregory, dissolving the Central Com-
mittee, and conveying the thanks of the Lord
Lieutenant 307

NO. XV.

- Letter from the Governors of the House of Indus-
try, in reply to the Right Hon. Charles Grant, re-
lative to the expense of supporting a Soup Kitchen,
&c. 309

NO. XVI.

- Letter from William Gregory, Esq. to the Gover-
nors of the Fever Hospital in Cork-street, direct-
ing the discontinuance of extraordinary expenses
from the 5th of July, 1819 312

NO. XVII.

- Account of the Proceedings of an Association in St.
Peter's Parish 314

NO. XVIII.

Proceedings at Waterford, for the relief of the Indigent Sick	326
---	-----

NO. XIX.

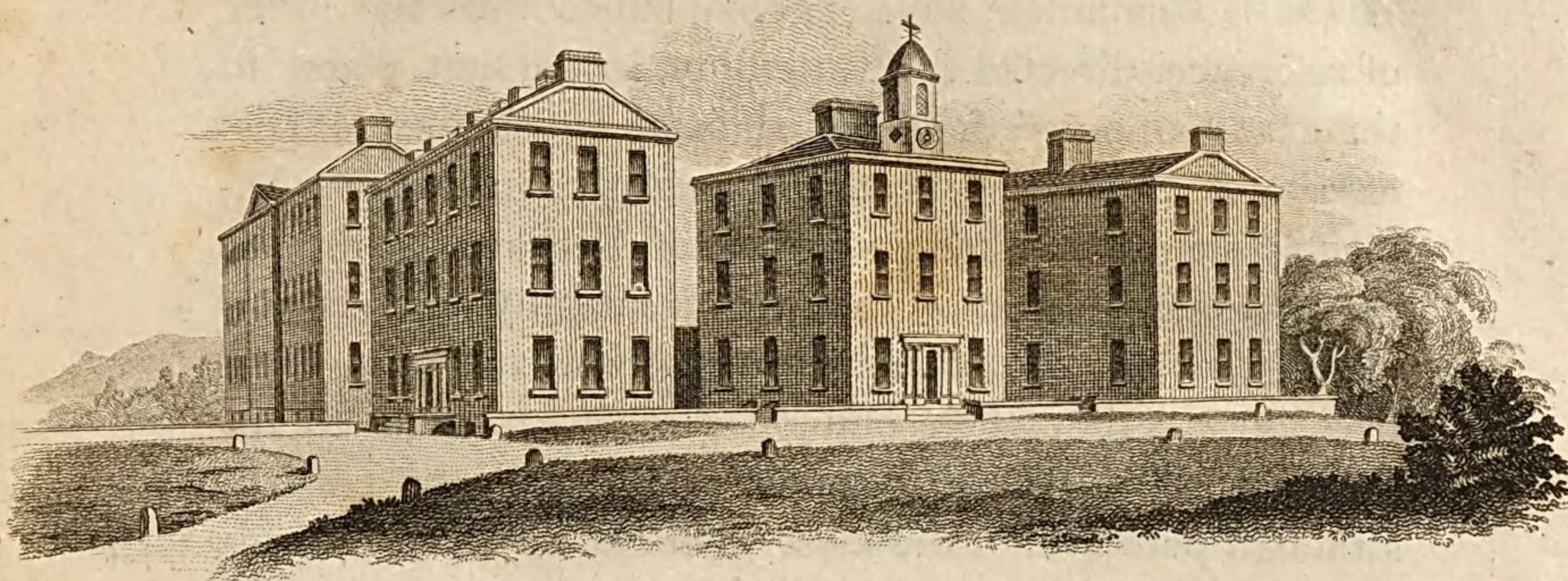
Addresses to the Poor at Ballytore	361
--	-----

NO. XX.

Act of Parliament to establish regulations for preventing Contagious Diseases in Ireland	366
--	-----

NO. XXI.

Establishment of a General Board of Health in Ireland	374
General Index	379



FEVER HOSPITAL, CORK STREET.

REPORT

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE STATE OF DISEASE IN IRELAND.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state of Ireland, as to disease, and how far the measures, remedial and preventive, adopted by the Legislature or otherwise during the last year, have been effective for its removal or mitigation; and also into the condition of the labouring poor of that part of the United Kingdom, with a view to facilitate the application of the funds of private individuals and associations, for their employment in useful and productive labour; and to report their observations, together with their opinion on these subjects, from time to time to the House;—Have, pursuant to the order of the House, examined the matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following Report:

YOUR Committee have, in compliance with the order of reference, directed their attention, in the first place, to the examination of the actual state of Ireland as to Disease, and the effect of the Legislative provisions humanely enacted in the last Session of Parliament, for the removal or mitigation of that public calamity. They now proceed, under the power intrusted to them of reporting from time to time their opinion thereon, to state to the House the result of their inquiries into this the earliest, although perhaps not the most essential or most difficult object of their investigation.

The labours of your Committee as to this branch of their inquiry, have been materially abridged and facilitated by the judicious measures adopted by the Irish government, for ascertaining, by accurate inspection, the actual state of those districts of the several provinces where this epidemic fever had most fatally prevailed; and they have been enabled, by the detailed reports of the respectable and intelligent members of the medical profession selected to perform this humane and valuable duty, to lay before the House more satisfactory information on this interesting subject than would probably have been attainable from any other sources. The liberality of the public had, in compliance with the recommendation of the Committee of the last session, been continued and increased, in aid of the voluntary contributions for relief of the diseased, and it was on every account most desirable, that the Irish government who had thus dispensed the public bounty, should be enabled to ascertain the effects produced by the expenditure of the public and private funds for attainment of this great object under the provisions adopted by the legislature.

Your Committee therefore, have annexed these Returns of the medical Inspectors as an Appendix to this Report;

which, with the tables accompanying them, will, they are confident, receive from the House that serious and considerate attention, which such documents so well deserve; and they venture to add, that without a careful perusal of them, a very inadequate opinion will be formed of the extent of the calamitous pressure on the body of the people, and the great sacrifices and meritorious exertions of the residents of all classes for relief of the diseased. The reports on the provinces of Munster and Leinster, and particularly the cities of Dublin, Cork, Waterford, and Limerick, where the disease prevailed most extensively, and where the more general establishment of fever hospitals has afforded the means of more correct information, appear best suited to elucidate this interesting subject of inquiry.

The Committee consider the Act of last Session as only in the commencement of its operation, and cannot feel any surprize if a course of legislative regulations, in some parts novel, and enacted under circumstances of severe and calamitous visitation, has in some instances, and especially where imperfectly acted upon, failed to produce an immediate effect, or should have been sometimes misconceived, as to its tendency and the nature of its provisions: in this latter observation they particularly refer to the enactments respecting the establishment of a Board of Health, which, though guarded most scrupulously against any possible abuse of those great powers which could alone be efficacious in such extensive cases as it was calculated to meet, appear to have excited, in some parts, unmerited distrust and jealousy; whilst they have been acted upon in other places, Newry in particular, where they are stated to have produced the most salutary results.

Your Committee however consider themselves warrant-

ed in expressing a sincere and satisfactory conviction that the Act has been signally and powerfully effective in the attainment of its objects through many extensive districts of a country severely afflicted with disease: The remedial means pointed out by the Act, where fully adopted, have worked extensive good; and as they trust they will be still more powerfully efficacious as they are more generally acted on, your Committee considers itself in a great degree released from further immediate consideration of that branch of the subject.

The Reports of all the inspectors, and accurate information derived from other most respectable individuals, concur in the necessity of looking to the establishment of measures for the prevention of disease, and to securing the people of Ireland against its recurrence and increase, by assiduous and regular attention to cleanliness of the streets of the cities and great towns, and ventilation and purification of the dwellings of the inhabitants.

In this view your Committee consider it of infinite moment that the necessity of local, systematic and unpaid control should be impressed on the inhabitants of all cities and great towns, where the assemblage of large bodies of people creates those nuisances which generate and increase disease; and have therefore sought out the means of calling into action parochial assistance in performance of those duties, as best suited to the object; being well satisfied, that appointments of that nature induce the most salutary and efficacious results of individual and collective exertion: in no case can we look to this exertion with more confidence, than when the health and comforts of the community are in question; nor at any time, than when that community having severely felt, and still continuing to feel, though in a lesser degree, the fatal consequences of past negligence, or the

want of such provision, by the visitation of disease, will be disposed duly to estimate the value of such a regularly acting and established system. Under such circumstances, your Committee venture, with some degree of confidence, to recommend certain Legislative regulations, directed to this important object.

They have also adopted, but with some doubt as to its efficacious practical results, a suggestion, intended to prevent the migration through the country of numerous bodies of mendicant poor, who, pressed by distress and seeking for relief have fatally contributed to the general diffusion of disease. For this evil, to which the concurring medical Reports of the last and present year mainly attribute the extension of the disorder, it is most difficult to devise a remedy, which will not lead in its consequences, to the establishment of a system of poor laws, that, in a country like Ireland, would produce incalculable evils to every class of the community.

The measure which your Committee proposes, merely goes to confirm powers in the Magistracy which formerly existed, and to extend them to some other officers; but to render the pecuniary provision for the expenses incurred in their execution entirely dependent on the voluntary contributions of individuals, or local public communities.

Your Committee now proceed to lay before the House in detail, the regulations, which they feel it their duty to recommend for the purposes aforesaid.

1. That in order to provide for and secure constant and adequate attention to the health and comforts of the inhabitants of Ireland, and the prevention of contagious disease, more especially in the cities and great towns

thereof, it appears requisite that officers should be annually elected by the householders in all cities and great towns, containing above one thousand inhabitants, and in such of the parishes of the country as may think proper to adopt a similar measure; which officers shall be, during the year of their continuance in office, intrusted with full powers to direct all streets and lanes and yards adjoining thereto, and houses let in several tenements to room-keepers, and the yards connected therewith, to be cleansed, and all nuisances prejudicial to health to be removed therefrom, and to clear public sewers, and cover them where necessary, and to fill up or drain off all lodgments of standing water, and to cause to be done such works for ventilation and fumigation and cleansing of any house in which fever has occurred, and the washing and purifying the persons and clothes of its inhabitants, as shall appear to them indispensably necessary for the preservation and security of the inhabitants of the parish; and that in all cities and great towns, as above mentioned, where the inhabitant householders shall neglect or omit to make such appointments for one month after the 25th of March in every year, it shall be competent for the Magistrates assembled in Quarter Sessions to make such appointment; and that all constables and other peace officers be empowered and required to be assistant to the said Officers of Health, when called upon in execution of their duty.

2. That such Officers of Health should be chosen in vestries parochially in all cities and great towns, and also in such country parishes as shall think it proper to adopt this measure, to the number of not less than two, or more than five for each parish, and shall act without salary; and that the expenses incurred in discharge of their duties enjoined by these resolutions, the amount whereof shall not exceed such sum as the inhabitant householders

shall, at the appointment of such officers, limit and direct, be levied by parish rate in such manner and form as the other parochial assessments are; and the expenditure accounted for in a similar manner; but at such periods of the year, and as often as the parochial meeting shall direct, by the said Officers of Health; and that copies of such accounts be transmitted annually to such public office or officer in Dublin as the Lord Lieutenant shall direct.

3. That in all cities and towns as aforesaid, where the sweeping of the streets and dung collected there is not already vested, or by any Act shall be vested in the corporate body, or where the scavengers or other persons intrusted by such corporate body with the care thereof, shall neglect or omit to exercise the powers intrusted to them, by cleansing the streets and lanes twice in every week at the least, after notice given of such neglect or omission by any inhabitant to the scavengers or other persons so intrusted, the dung and sweepings of the streets may and shall, in 24 hours after, be collected and sold by the said Officers of Health for the benefit of such parish, and accounted for in diminution of the charge incurred in execution of their several powers.

4. That any magistrate or churchwarden, or any of the officers so to be appointed, be empowered to remove out of their respective parishes any persons who shall be found begging or wandering as vagabonds therein, or to confine such persons to hard labour for 24 hours in any bridewell, or other public place of confinement, or to adopt both measures, as the case may require: and to cause the persons and clothes of such vagabond beggars to be washed and cleansed during the period of their confinement; and that the magistrates assembled at any quarter sessions, or adjournment thereof, be empowered to

constitute any suitable unoccupied building to be a bride-well for the said purposes; provided that it be so appropriated and continued with the consent of the owner or proprietors thereof; and that it be earnestly recommended, that wherever public buildings exist, which are no longer necessary to be applied to the original object of their destination, they may be allowed to be used for the purposes aforesaid.

Your Committee having thus submitted their general view of this branch of the subject intrusted to them, and embodied the results in the foregoing regulations, are proceeding, in further execution of their duty, to inquire how far it may be practicable to ameliorate the condition of the labouring poor, by facilitating the application of the funds of private individuals and associations, for their employment in useful and productive labour; by which alone your Committee feel themselves warranted to expect the entire and permanent removal of a maldy, which, although much mitigated in its severity, and more circumscribed in its extent, still continues to press heavily on the community, and which the united testimonies of every competent inquirer attribute to the want of employment of the labouring classes, as a primary and powerfully efficient cause.

17th May 1819.

APPENDIX.

I.

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF FEVER IN THE PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

THE insertion of the following letter, received from Mr. Secretary Grant on the 13th of February last, appears to me requisite to explain the objects of my mission, and the means which I have adopted to fulfil its several duties.

Dublin Castle, 12th February, 1819.

His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant having been pleased to appoint Doctor Francis Barker, as a temporary medical inspector for the province of Munster, for the purpose of ascertaining, by inquiry to be made by him on the spot, the exact state of Fever throughout the province, with the view of submitting in detail for his Excellency's consideration, such medical or preventive measures, (in addition to those now employed,) as might in his judgment prove the means, not only of relieving

the persons afflicted with contagious fever, but of checking its further progress in their several dwellings; I have to communicate his Excellency's anxious desire and confident expectation, that magistrates of every class, the clergy of all persuasions, and the several respectable persons who superintend and execute the arduous and useful duties of governors and medical attendants on the fever hospitals and dispensaries which have been established throughout the province of Munster, will be pleased to afford their best advice and assistance to Doctor Barker, for the purpose of enabling him to discharge the important trust committed into his hands, with benefit to the country at large.

(Signed) CHARLES GRANT.

HAVING received the commands of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to act as a temporary medical inspector for the province of Munster, I proceeded, conformably with my instructions, to ascertain by inquiry made on the spot, the exact state of fever throughout five counties of that province; and I now submit for his Excellency's consideration the several results of my inspection, together with such medical and preventive measures, (in addition to those now employed), as may in my judgment prove the means, not only of relieving the persons afflicted with contagious fever, but of checking its further progress in their several dwellings.

To discharge this important trust, I addressed myself to those gentlemen who, from official situation as magistrates or clergymen, or from connection with various fever hospitals or dispensaries, were likely to afford ac-

curate and satisfactory information; and the substance of the following Report has been framed from a comparison of the separate statements of numerous individuals in the same or in different parts of the province; from visits to the different establishments receiving patients in fever, and in almost every instance, from personal communications, carefully noted down at the time. The several inspectors employed on this occasion, had judged it expedient, previous to their setting out on their mission, to decide upon and methodize the different subjects connected with this inquiry. These have been arranged under the following heads, in the form of queries, and in the order which I propose to observe in this report.

1.—Has Fever prevailed in does it now prevail; and is it increasing, stationary, or decreasing?

2.—Is there any district in the neighbourhood where it has not prevailed, or any class of people among whom it has not showed itself; and if so, what peculiarities in their habits or modes of living have been observed?

3.—When did this epidemic fever first appear; at what time was it most prevalent and fatal; and what proportion does the number of those who have been attacked, bear to the whole population?

4.—Were any remarkable circumstances observable in the state of the people in this place, when fever first made its appearance among them?

5.—Does it differ from the ordinary fever of this country, and has any change in its character taken place; and if so, at what time?

6.—What means have been employed to counteract it, and with what success? Are there any districts in this neighbourhood unprovided with medical aid?

7.—Were relapses frequent; and if so, during what times since the commencement of the epidemic? Did the disease often recur in the same individual at distant periods; and if so, from what causes?

8.—What effects did it produce on the constitutions of the sufferers?

9.—Has it extended through families; or from the sick, to the medical or other visitors or attendants?

10.—Can accurate returns, in periods of twelve or six months, or monthly, of the numbers admitted, cured, and died in hospitals, or of those who sickened and passed through the disease in their own houses, be supplied?

The facts resulting from answers given to the preceding questions, together with such collateral information as appeared to be connected with the subject, are stated for the different counties in this order:—Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, and Tipperary; and this division has been adopted because the soil and situation of the different counties, and the habits and circumstances of their inhabitants are so distinct, that such varieties of the epidemic fever might be expected to exist, as would, on comparison, afford information as to the progress of disease, and the means best adapted for its prevention.

COUNTY OF WATERFORD.

IN the county of Waterford, various places were inspected, particularly those where fever had been most prevalent, including Waterford, Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Lismore, Tallow; where, from the establishment of fever hospitals, most information was likely to be obtained. Various particulars were also learned as to the state of fever in Kilmacthomas, Tramore, and other small towns situated on the adjacent sea coast.

1.—In Waterford, fever had for some time prevailed in a very considerable degree, and at the period of my visit seemed to be increasing; but this apparent increase was attributed by most well informed persons to an active inspection of the city, lately instituted by the medical gentlemen, with other benevolent individuals, and to the consequent reception into the hospital of many patients in fever, who, but for the visits of the inspectors, would have remained in their own dwellings.

The hospital was crowded in an extreme degree; and it had been just resolved to extend the accommodation, and to appropriate some of the wards in the contiguous city hospital to the reception of fever patients. The great prevalence of fever at this period will become evident on inspecting the return No. 1. from which it will appear that the number of patients in hospital, on the 20th of last February, exceeded more than four times the number at the latter part of 1817. It is satisfactory to state, from information lately received, that the disease has now considerably decreased in Waterford, and that the patients admitted to the hospital during the last week

of March did not in number much exceed one-third of those admitted during the same period, at the commencement of last January.

2.—In some of the smaller towns contiguous to Waterford, fever had also prevailed, but as I was credibly informed, it was on the decline; and in Tramore and its vicinity, which had also been visited by this malady, there was not a single case of fever at that time.

This epidemic fever seemed to have first showed itself at Passage, a small sea-port town near to the mouth of the river Suir, about the end of the year 1816, or the beginning of 1817. In the month of February of the latter year, it was very prevalent in that town; and little doubt can exist of its prevalence in this quarter, and at Waterford, before it made its appearance in more inland places situated to the west of this city.

From the reports of fourteen medical gentlemen, and other well informed persons, it was satisfactorily proved that fever had prevailed in every district around the city, and that no class of people had been altogether exempt from its attacks; but its prevalence had been much greater in the lower than in the upper classes of society, among whom at that time no case of fever was known to exist, although about twelve months previously, and during last summer, it had appeared occasionally, and, as in most other places where it attacked the rich, had been attended with consequences proportionally much more fatal. By the returns obtained from the fever hospital at Waterford, it is proved, that during the months of December, January and February last, little more than one in sixteen patients had died of fever; but among the better ranks in that town and its neighbourhood, the fatal cases had constituted at least one-fourth of the total

number attacked. The infrequency of fever here observed among the class of society in comfortable circumstances, is attributable to the superior cleanliness and ventilation of their dwellings, their more frequent ablutions and changes of apparel, and seclusion from those by whom infection is most frequently communicated. Little or no fever had appeared among the society of Friends, probably from the same causes, operating in a higher degree. That seclusion exerts a strong preservative influence, was exemplified by facts derived from unquestionable authority. In the charity school of Killo-teran, about three miles distant from Waterford, containing fifty-six boys, no case of fever had occurred, either during the last summer or since that time, when the disease was so prevalent in Waterford and the immediate vicinity of the school. The master had received particular directions to prevent all communication with the town or surrounding neighbourhood; these directions had been carefully observed. A fact of a different kind, by showing that comfortable circumstances and cleanly habits are alone insufficient to confer security, without a certain degree of seclusion, tends to confirm the opinion of its preventive efficacy: many of the inferior classes, such as farmers, and others, whose circumstances were tolerably comfortable, and habits cleanly, suffered considerably from fever, arising most probably from their more frequent and continued intercourse with persons in the lowest rank, amongst whom chiefly the disease was prevalent.

3.—Judging from the annexed return of the fever hospital, we might be led to infer, that fever had begun to prevail epidemically in Waterford during the summer of 1817, as its chief increase was manifested at that season; but the concurring reports of various medical gentlemen, referred its commencement to the end of 1816, or January 1817. From that time it had advanced progres-

sively; and had been most prevalent and fatal at the period of my inspection, and during some months antecedently.

To ascertain precisely the proportion which the number seized with fever, bore to the whole population of Waterford, was scarcely possible, as many persons were received into hospital from the adjacent country, and many also must have remained unnoticed in their homes; but supposing the numbers of such patients to be nearly equal, estimating from a comparison of the returns of the fever hospital and the total number of inhabitants, the sufferers from fever cannot be rated at less than one-ninth of the whole population. In a part of the city named the Carrigeen, inhabited by the poorest and most miserable classes, there are good reasons for believing, that at least nineteen persons in twenty have suffered from fever; and in Murphy's-lane, containing sixty houses, every inhabitant has had an attack of fever within the last two months.

4.—The circumstances of the people at the time of its first invasion, were in many respects peculiar: poverty was extreme; in consequence of the failure of the crops in the year 1816, scarcity had prevailed to a degree almost amounting to famine; the seasons were most unusually humid. With these evils, want of employment, caused by the change from war to peace, and the failure or deficiency of manufactures, contributed in a high degree to increase the distress. The manufacture of stuff, which formerly was pretty extensive, has of late years greatly declined. One of the inspectors appointed by the convalescent committee had very lately visited many of the weavers rooms, in all of which he had found but one loom at work.

The slaughtering of beef, from which the poor inha-

bitants derived some assistance, has also ceased. The miserable consequences thus arising from the concurrence of scarcity with want of employment, far exceeded all former example; for, in the year 1801, when fever was epidemic, scarcity alone operated to produce distress. A physician, to the public establishments in this city, informed me that he has frequently detected healthy men endeavouring to alleviate the pains of hunger by lying in bed during the greater part of the day, in a state of reckless despondency.

The great neglect of cleanliness among the lower classes, a necessary consequence of extreme poverty, was stated also as a powerful cause for the spreading of febrile contagion.

5.—It is proper to mention, that the disease did not materially differ from the ordinary fever which so generally prevails in Ireland. In the course of last autumn it was attended by dysentery, which proved remarkably fatal to the inhabitants of this city; about three hundred persons, including some of the better ranks, having become victims of the latter disease.

6.—In Waterford, which in this country first set the example of instituting an hospital for the reception of fever patients exclusively, in connection with other parts of the preventive system, it might be expected, from the humane activity of the managers, that extraordinary efforts would have been employed to oppose the progress of disease: the sick were removed to hospital from their dwellings; these were whitewashed, and clean straw supplied to the remaining family; and as ventilation was in many instances found to be defective, in some houses of the densely populous lanes, openings were made, when it could be done, to admit fresh air and diminish the noxious effects of the concentrated effluvia: the articles

of dress made of linen, belonging to patients admitted to the hospital, were washed and exposed to the fresh air. Private contributions for the support of the hospital, were most liberal, and aid was obtained from government by the advance of different sums on several occasions: but as these exertions, though great and unprecedented, proved ineffectual completely to arrest the progress of disease, additional measures were employed, which deserve attention. A Fund was established for the purpose of affording relief to the families of all persons received into the fever hospital, and of supplying nourishment to the convalescents from fever on their return to their dwellings; and also of cleansing the houses and clothes of the infected. A commodious house (the gift of a member of the corporation) has been lately fitted up with cisterns and boilers for washing, and with a kiln for drying and fumigating infected clothes and bedding: children left destitute by the removal of their parents to the hospital, or those persons who have not changes of clothes, are received into the house to undergo the operation of cleansing: notice is there received of all fresh cases of apparent fever, and lists are sent every morning from the fever hospital, of the persons admitted or dismissed on the preceding day: the city has been divided into districts, to each of which a physician and three other visitors, members of the committee, are allotted. The physician examines the applications of the sick to this house, visits the applicants, and should he find it necessary, sends them to the fever hospital: the other members of the district committees visit the patients' dwellings, and see that all the measures of purification, consisting of whitewashing, burning foul and supplying new straw, and cleansing the persons and bedding of infected families, have been duly performed; soup and fuel are also distributed to poor families when in a state of convalescence, as circumstances may require: but the success of the plan has

not yet been decisive, though no doubt can exist that distress must have been greatly alleviated, and much sickness prevented by its humane operation.

The districts around Waterford, in the county, are in general unprovided with medical aid, except such as can be obtained from the city, with the exception of Tramore, where a physician resides.

7.—The distress arising from this epidemic fever, has been much increased by the frequency of relapses, which happened chiefly within the last four months: of 2,700 patients admitted to the hospital in the year 1818, 700 at least were either cases of relapse, or of a recurrence of the disease after some interval of time. Many patients relapsed several times, and such attacks were often severe; they were attributed to the want of wholesome nourishing food, as well as of clothing and bedding, and to the neglect of cleanliness in the persons and apartments. It was reported that in some parts of the country adjacent to the sea coast, relapses were not so frequent as they had been in Waterford.

8.—No extraordinary effects on the constitution seemed to follow the attacks of fever, with the exception of great debility; and this, as might be expected, was most remarkable after relapses.

9.—Among the poorer classes, living in apartments crowded and ill ventilated during the whole night and great part of the day, and thus exposed to the effluvia proceeding from the sick, the disease has been found very generally to extend to all the individuals of a family; seven or eight persons from the same rooms have frequently been admitted in succession to the hospital; but in the upper classes of society, such extension of fever

through the members of a family was rarely observed. The circumstances of the rich will account for this immunity: their apartments are better ventilated than those of the inferior classes; and they are not, as the poor, exposed during the night, when the system is probably most susceptible of the influence of contagion, to its impression, continued during many hours, in small rooms ill ventilated, and favouring its propagation by neglect of every kind. Cleanliness in the persons and apartments of the richer classes, also contributes to their security; nor should we omit the superior dryness of their dwellings, as there is some reason for supposing that damp air acts as a vehicle of contagion; it is also probable that the more liberal use of animal food among the richer classes, by invigorating the system, may contribute to their security. On these principles may be explained the fact, that the troops, in the garrison of Waterford, were healthy when fever raged in the town and its vicinity; and that ninety non-commissioned officers of the Waterford militia staff have suffered but little from fever during the last three years, though following their trades in different parts of the city. Of the medical attendants, not one in this city has suffered from the disease, though engaged occasionally in attendance on the fever hospital; two of them had a severe attack of dysentery, a disease, by some physicians, considered to be closely allied to fever. The housekeeper, nurses, and servants at this hospital have suffered severely, few having escaped the sickness, particularly during the last summer; and in two instances the termination was fatal: seventeen have been attacked within the last fourteen months; and of these, four have suffered two or three relapses. Here it would be unjust to pass over unnoticed, the fearless intrepidity displayed by the members of the committee and medical gentlemen in their attendance on the hospital, which, at the time of my inspection, was so crowded, that in some of

the wards the patients lay in three rows, and many of the beds contained two patients labouring [under fever: in these circumstances the physicians continued their daily visits; and gentlemen of the town, managers of the institution, did not hesitate to enter wards which, accustomed as I am to attendance on fever patients, I could not remain in without some feelings of apprehension. This generous sacrifice of their personal safety is no longer necessary; more ample accommodation having been since that time provided. The extension of fever among the attendants at fever hospitals, will in the sequel appear to have been an almost universal occurrence in this part of Ireland. The return (No. 1) from the hospital, will show the progress of fever in Waterford, and the magnitude of those exertions which have been made for its suppression: but it is proper to observe, that the great assistance rendered by the "Convalescent Committee" to the families of patients, when received into hospital, has lately contributed to crowd its wards with cases of a slight nature, and to interfere with an exact comparison of this with other parts of the province, where less active measures have been employed or deemed to be necessary.

1.—In other parts of the county, including Dungarvan, Cappoquin, Lismore, Tallow and Kilmacthomas, fever seemed to be much less prevalent than in Waterford; and although in these places there had been an evident decrease, which seemed more permanent than on former occasions, still the disease did not appear to be altogether subdued. It had occurred in most districts within some miles around the above mentioned towns, but at different times. Thus in the parish of Rineogonah, the inhabitants had no fever when it raged in Dungarvan, though the malady has since reached them.

2.—Instances of exemption, worthy of remark, also oc-

curred. Thus it did not prevail at Ballinavella, Kilnacraga, and the two Bridanes, plough lands in the neighbourhood of Lismore, owing, as it is stated, to advice given by the Roman catholic clergyman to the inhabitants of these places not to frequent Lismore or Tallow. Its attacks, as in Waterford and the immediate neighbourhood of that city, had not been confined to the lower classes, although crowding of apartments, defective ventilation, neglect of cleanliness, and the other consequences of poverty, were found to be as effectual here as in Waterford, in favouring its progress. At Cappoquin, fever was stated to have begun with the upper ranks, and to have proceeded from them to the poor.

3.—The first increase of fever in Lismore, took place about November 1817, and it was most fatal in last September and October. It had appeared at Ballyduff on the south side of the river Blackwater, about twelve months ago: a person resident there, who died of fever, had bequeathed his clothes to an inhabitant of the opposite side of the river; and soon after his death, the disease spread through the family into which the clothes had been received. Here it proved more fatal at its first appearance than subsequently, and continued, from its commencement at Ballyduff, during eight or nine months, at both sides of the Blackwater.

4.—Deficiency of fuel, arising from the wetness of the years 1816, 1817, was frequently assigned to me as a cause for the spreading of fever amongst the poor at that time. Turf or peat, the ordinary fuel in most inland parts of the country, could not be dried and brought home in a state fit for use: this must have occasioned a perpetual dampness of the clothing and apartments of the poor, debilitating their constitution, rendering the air of their

dwellings noxious by diminished ventilation arising from the want of that current of air which is produced by a fire burning within the flue; thus in various ways favouring the influence of contagion.

Poverty and its consequences in this, as in other parts of the county of Waterford, attended the commencement of fever; and the distresses of the poor have been much increased by the failure of the fishery, which occurred about the time when the disease became epidemical, at Dungarvan and other parts of the adjacent sea coast. At this period, several of the fishermen had become beggars.

Strangers were supposed to have introduced the disease into Tallow, as they resorted there in great numbers at the time when fever commenced. It is supposed that one-third part of the population of that town, suffered in some degree from fever.

5.—The progress of fever in this part of the county of Waterford, resembled that of the city and its vicinity. It had in general become milder; it was also of shorter continuance, a strong indication of diminished severity, though not of lessened contagion.

6.—The preventive means used in this quarter of the county, were similar to those already stated. Temporary fever hospitals, supported by private and public contribution, also by aid from government, had been erected, and exertions great and generous were employed to prevent the extension of disease. A measure of relief pursued at Cappoquin, deserves mention: the distribution of clothes, in cases of great distress, by a charitable society instituted for that purpose; the miserable condition of the poor rendering such relief peculiarly necessary, and ob-

viating a frequent cause of fever. The benefit of such societies is not limited to the relief they afford; they disclose the condition and wants of the poor to the upper classes; and thus approximating the different orders of society, tend to give them a community of interest and feeling.

7.—Relapses were very frequent in every quarter of the county of Waterford, and greatly augmented the distress.

8.—No peculiar effects on the constitution, were observed to result from its attacks.

9.—Its contagious nature was more strongly evinced in this, than in the eastern part of the county; for it not only spread through whole families, but several clergymen, both Protestant and Roman catholic, and some physicians, were attacked. In the hospital at Lismore, every nurse had thus suffered, and some of them gave up their places from apprehension. The physician was also a sufferer; and some of the clergy, Protestant and Roman catholic, in the neighbourhood of Tallow, died of fever.

From a review of the different reports obtained in this county it results, that fever, with scarcely an exception, has prevailed in every district, commencing not exactly at the same time in different places, but at a period generally corresponding with the distresses arising from the scarcity:

That in this county it is by no means subdued, although its frequency has been progressively diminishing, and its severity is in general mitigated:

That the evils resulting from it, have been greatly enhanced by relapses:

That its contagious nature has been strongly evinced by its almost universal extension among the nurses in hospitals, and by the attacks of fever which have occurred among the physicians and clergy engaged in the duty of attendance on the sick.

That the preventive system, in all its details, is now very actively pursued in the town of Waterford, where the disease still appears to exist to a greater degree than in other parts of the county.

COUNTY OF CORK.

IN the county of Cork, such places were inspected as were judged likely to afford satisfactory information relative as well to the prevalence and character of the epidemic fever, as to the means which had been adopted to restrain its progress.

The great extent of this county, and the sufferings which its inhabitants have undergone, claim for it peculiar notice; but to avoid useless repetition, reference will occasionally be made to the statements contained in the report on the county of Waterford.

1.—From the low and damp situation of Cork, and the injury which its dense population must have sustained by the change from war to peace, it might be expected that epidemic fever would there have made great progress, more especially when rendered active by bad seasons, giving rise to scarcity amounting almost to famine; ac-

cordingly fever has prevailed to a most extraordinary extent. The number of patients who passed through the fever hospitals in the year 1817, amounted to 726; in 1816, this rose to 995; in 1817, to 4,615; and in 1818, to the enormous amount of 10,228: so that in the two last years, a number of patients exceeding one-seventh of the population of Cork, estimating this at 100,000, has passed through the different fever hospitals of that city. Such was the increase of fever patients in the year 1817 and part of 1818, that two additional hospitals were required to accommodate all applicants labouring under fever: these hospitals have since been closed; the last of them at the period of my inspection, on the 1st of March 1819.

It is most satisfactory to report from various concurring testimonies, as well as from returns obtained from the hospitals, that fever has so much declined in Cork, as to render it questionable if the disease be now more prevalent than it has been in ordinary times; no doubt however can exist that fever still prevails in Cork, but probably in a degree little exceeding its usual frequency in the populous towns of this county; and its progressive decrease, as indicated by reports from the hospitals, is universally acknowledged.

2.—It would seem to have prevailed in Cove, a small sea-port town near the mouth of the harbour, and seven miles distant from Cork, at an earlier period than in this city; and it deserves remark, that in two places so similarly circumstanced as Cove, and Passage near to Waterford, fever should have made its appearance at an earlier date than in either of these cities.

No district in the vicinage of Cork had been exempt from fever; and its progress seems to have been pretty

similar to that observed in other places in this province; visiting the upper classes with great severity, and at its commencement proving very mortal, but almost totally ceasing among them in proportion as its frequency increased among the poor.

3.—Its commencement was generally referred to the latter part of 1816, or beginning of 1817. It increased manifestly in the spring of 1817; when the beds, which had been hitherto sufficient for the fever patients of the town, were found unequal to the demand, and a greater number were provided.

4.—Great scarcity and bad quality of provisions; increase of failures in trade, owing to the transition from war to peace; mendicants flocking to the city, and the needy crowding thither in general in search of employment, were the circumstances marking this eventful period.

5.—Dysentery, which showed itself in the course of last autumn, did not appear to have been so prevalent or fatal here as in Waterford, and the fever had changed its character and become milder.

6.—The preventive means were pursued most actively: patients were received into hospitals, where every advantage to be derived from such establishments was obtainable; whitewashing, ventilation and fumigation occasionally were employed in the dwellings of the poor; the clothes of the patients received into hospitals, were ventilated or steeped in cold water; the bedding and clothes of the family remaining at home were not washed, but clean straw was supplied, and the old straw bedding occasionally destroyed; coals were also given to some poor families; soup likewise had been distributed to aid the

distressed, and promote the recovery of convalescent patients. Fever has declined almost within its ordinary limits; and the benevolent promoters of the measures so actively pursued for its suppression, have the satisfaction of reflecting that their dearest relatives, friends and fellow citizens, are no longer threatened by the visitation of this awful calamity.

7.—Relapses occurred very frequently; at one hospital it appeared that a large proportion of the patients dismissed, returned in a relapse of fever. This took place during the summer months, and among the lower ranks almost exclusively.

8.—The effects produced on the constitution of the sufferers from an attack of this disease, were not different from those observed in Waterford.

9.—Its extension through families was a very general occurrence among the poor, and was not very infrequent among those whose circumstances were comfortable, if cleanliness and ventilation had been neglected; but it rarely spread among the upper classes. Nine physicians, eight of them engaged in attendance on the poor in different establishments, were attacked, and of this number three died; these unhappy events occurred in the year 1817. Every medical person, including two apothecaries, connected with the South Fever Asylum, had an attack of fever; the apothecaries to such institutions were general sufferers: the nurses who in the performance of their duty were greatly exposed to infection, also suffered; the greater number had attacks of fever, and some became its victims. Other persons engaged in various offices with the sick, the fumigators of the houses, and barbers of the hospitals, were attacked, and it was evident that persons occupied with attend-

ance on the sick poor at that time, suffered in a degree of frequency much exceeding that observed in any other class of people not similarly exposed. The only cause to which this could be attributed was the contagious nature of the malady; for in ventilation, cleanliness and general arrangements, the hospitals of Cork were not merely unexceptionable, but in many respects deserving of imitation in other places.

In several of the public establishments, the foundling hospital, depôt for convicts, and gaol, few or no cases of fever then existed.

In the latter place, five cases of fever had not occurred from the commencement of the year 1817 to last August: this was attributed, and apparently with good reason, to the practice on the admission of the prisoners, of washing and cleansing their persons, substituting a clean gaol dress for their own clothes, which were exposed to heat in a stove or oven, steeping the bedding of all those who were unusually filthy in bleaching liquor, and lastly, exposure to the process of stoving. Two prisoners had died of dysentery, but none of fever.

The practice of supplying gaol dresses has been discontinued, some prisoners have sickened with fever, and a few patients of this kind were in the hospital at the time of my visit. The gaol was crowded to a greater degree than usual, and it had generally contained between three and four hundred prisoners.

Strong facts were stated to me on the existence of various nuisances, some of which I witnessed; and I was informed on the best authority, that one place where a number of lanes intersect, was in such a state from disease and filth, that some of the physicians more than

once declared it to be quite unsafe for them to visit there. Deposits of filth and putrifying animal substances are suffered to remain in the crowded parts of this city; and I was informed that the powers vested in magistrates as to nuisances, are insufficient, as the dung is the property of those who collect it, and cannot be removed without a tedious law proceeding, which the proprietor by various contrivances can evade. This evil requires a remedy; for whatsoever opinion may be entertained as to the power of animal effluvia to *generate fever*, no doubt should exist that air tainted and impure, debilitates the human system and favours the progress of contagion; and this may contribute with other causes, at all times to maintain fever in the large cities of this province, where such nuisances are too much neglected.

1.—In other parts of the county of Cork, the progress of this epidemic fever was similar to that observed in the city. At Cove, which previous to this time had not produced four cases of fever annually in a population of about 7,000, the increase of disease had become so great that it was deemed advisable to fit up a number of huts for the reception of fever patients. It seemed here equally contagious as at Cork, spreading through families almost universally; and it was observed of one house, that every family that occupied it as a dwelling during two successive years was attacked with fever. It extended to the attendants at hospitals: a physician, one of the apothecaries, and some of the nurses, were seized with the disease, and one of the latter died. It may be right to mention that soldiers, ill of fever, are landed from the transports and received into the military hospital at this place, and that six patients in fever had been admitted from the transports within the last month. In this island fever has greatly abated, or is now very little prevalent.

In other places of this county, Kinsale, Bandon, Fermoy, Mallow, Mill-street, Castle Martyr, Middleton, and Youghal, its progress was very similar to that observed in Cork; commencing at various periods after the wet season of 1816, without exemption of any district around these places, chiefly among the lower classes, but not altogether limited to these, but occasionally visiting individuals in better circumstances; and in this class of people prevailing most at its commencement, and with severity and danger proportioned to their elevation in society.

2.—According to several reports, situations damp and elevated seemed to favour its progress. Thus in a mountainous tract near Rathcormuck and Watergrass Hill it was extremely prevalent: in one family eight persons were attacked, and of these four died. In the neighbourhood of Bandon also it was said to have prevailed with most frequency and severity in situations damp and mountainous. Here it may be remarked, that in some instances it appeared to have been less prevalent, and in general to have declined more rapidly, in places where the subjacent rock consisted of limestone, than in those differently constituted. Thus in Coptown, in the neighbourhood of Mallow, fever was reported to have been much less prevalent than in any other place in that neighbourhood: it is elevated and exposed, and built over limestone.

Judging from the accounts of different medical gentlemen, also from hospital reports and inspection of the patients, I would infer, that in all the above mentioned places and surrounding districts, fever had considerably declined; that the decrease for some time past has been uninterrupted, and does not resemble those fluctuations which have occurred during its former course. At Mal-

low, Fermoy, Kinsale, Bandon, and Youghal, it might be said in general to have approached its ordinary limits; in other places it had almost totally disappeared: thus at Middleton the temporary fever hospital had been closed, and not a case of fever was said to exist within four miles of that town.

3.—As to the time of its first appearance in different parts of the county of Cork, this was referred, according to several testimonies:

In Bandon	-	to Spring 1816.
Fermoy	-	Uncertain.
Cork	-	Summer of 1816.
Cove	-	September 1816.
Cork	-	October 1816.
Mallow	-	October 1816.
Bandon	-	January or February 1817.
Youghal	-	Midsummer 1817.
Castle Martyr		Midsummer 1817.
Middleton	-	Beginning of 1817.
Cork	-	Spring of 1817.
Bandon	-	Spring of 1817.
Mills-street	-	Spring of 1817.
Kinsale	-	Later than in other places.
Skibbereen	-	Spring of 1817.
Fermoy	-	Spring of 1818.

Now from a collation of these testimonies, if we reject those which appear to differ much from the rest, it will follow that fever began to prevail epidemically in the county of Cork early in the spring of 1817, or the winter of 1816—1817; and as to the variations which occur in the different statements here given, I would only observe, that it is difficult to fix exactly the time when a fever begins to spread epidemically in a country which is con-

stantly infested with this disease; more especially in places where there are no fever hospitals, or records kept of the number of cases. At Youghall and Kinsale, somewhat similarly circumstanced, and places of little resort, it seems to have commenced later than in other parts of the county. A census of the population in Youghal was taken in March 1817, at which time it was found quite free from fever; but the commencement of epidemic fever seems evidently connected with the great movement which took place in the county on the first impressions arising from scarcity.

4.—The circumstances of the people at its commencement were generally stated to be such as are already mentioned in the reports of Cork and Waterford. Scarcity of wholesome food, combined with want of employment, extreme poverty, and wretchedness, great despondency; and in towns, defective ventilation of dwellings, and general neglect of cleanliness, were almost universally assigned as the circumstances of the inhabitants of the county of Cork at this time. But a few years ago, the fishermen of the town of Kinsale were never known to become mendicants; now they are often reduced to this necessity: the fishery on this coast, as at Youghal and Dungarvan, has been less productive than formerly. In some places, toward the west side of the county, the influx of strangers and mendicants was more dwelt upon than in other parts: thus, at Mills-street, it was stated that crowds of half-starved wretches, joined by the idle and ill disposed, passed through the county, seizing on potatoes and meal; and such was the violence of their importunity for food, that the distribution of soup became almost a service of personal danger. The number of strangers and mendicants who resorted to the western parts of the county of Cork, bordering on the county of Kerry, was extreme. The Kerry labourers, and many

of the people west of the town of Bandon, emigrate during the season of harvest, and their wives and children at these times generally become beggars. The increase of this evil must have been enormous at the time of scarcity, and amongst a people with whom emigration and mendicity are annual habits; and must have contributed powerfully to extend fever through a population unemployed, debilitated, despondent, and in every respect susceptible of impression from this calamity.

5.—The disease was, in general, reported to be either similar to the ordinary fever of this country, or to be merely a variety of this disease, modified by the peculiar circumstances of the people at the time of its invasion. At Mallow, deaths in the hospital were occasioned chiefly by a disease allied to dysentery, which proved at least as mortal in this place among the poor as in Waterford.

6.—The preventive means employed in the large towns were similar to those adopted in Cork. Hospitals were prepared on a scale accommodated to the size of the town and the means of its inhabitants: for their support, the contributions were in many instances large and generous, and the aid of government was occasionally given: places already built were often converted to hospitals; and in some instances, buildings of the rudest construction, with walls composed of turf-sods, were fitted up for the accommodation of the sick. Such was the conviction the poorer classes felt of the necessity of the separation of the sick from their families, that in some instances they erected huts by the sides of the fields, to which those were removed who sickened with fever; for the spreading of this disease was always apprehended, because it was an almost universal consequence of the appearance of fever in a family.

7.—Relapses were frequent in every part of the county without exception, but among the poor chiefly or exclusively; most commonly during the year 1818, and in proportion as the disease assumed a milder form.

8.—It extended through the families of the lower ranks very generally, as in other places. This was the invariable report at Youghal, Castle Martyr, Middleton, Bandon, Kinsale, Fermoy, Mallow and Mills-street; and sometimes it appeared to spread among persons in better circumstances. At Fermoy the postmaster's wife and three children had an attack of fever; and in about two months after this event, he sickened and died. Six medical men were attacked with fever in the neighbourhood of Fermoy and Mallow, and two of them fell victims to it. The nurses and inferior attendants at fever hospitals suffered very generally, as well as other persons employed about these establishments. In some parts of the county of Cork, bordering on the county of Kerry, it was reported that one-half of the population only, and that in others scarcely one-third, had remained exempt from an attack of fever.

COUNTY OF KERRY.

THE circumstances of the county of Kerry were peculiarly favourable to the progress of fever; remote from large towns, and deprived in too many instances of the advantages which result from resident landholders, its sufferings were not perhaps exceeded by those of any other county in the kingdom.

1, 2, 3.—The time of the first appearance of fever, its greatest prevalence and mortality, correspond nearly with the accounts received in the county of Cork; but at Dingle and its neighbourhood, it was reported to have appeared at a much later period than in other parts of the county of Kerry; and there was no fever there in August and September 1817, when extremely prevalent in other places. This was to be accounted for by its superior advantages over other parts of the county, arising from the linen trade and the fisheries; but something should also be attributed to its remote and insulated situation.

4.—The condition of the people in this county greatly furthered the progress of disease. This may be inferred from the following report of their circumstances at the time when fever became epidemic: fuel scarce and dear: farmers generally failing, in consequence of the change from war to peace; beggars passing through the county in crowds, seizing on provisions; great deficiency of employment, and scarcely any manufacture in their towns; the want of food so pressing in the neighbourhood of Tralee, that seed-potatoes were taken up from the ground and used for the support of life; nettles and other esculent wild vegetables eagerly sought after to satisfy the cravings of hunger; influx of strangers to such a degree that it was emphatically said, “the whole country was in motion,” and female mendicants, often carrying about children suffering from fever in their arms; and it was reported to me that a husband, wife and five children, were seen walking in the streets of Killarney, all labouring under fever. Spreading of disease under such circumstances was inevitable, and its progress was furthered in no small degree by general despondency, and by neglect in the persons and dwellings of the poor. Fever extended through families almost universally; and such was the con-

viction of its contagious nature, derived from sad experience, that the ties of family affection were in some instances dissolved, and the nearest relatives, when seized with the disease, were forced out of their cabins into huts generally placed by the road side, to prevent infection and obtain charitable relief: *this* was, I believe, most liberally supplied; for it is but justice to declare, that the resident gentry were feelingly sensible to the distresses of their countrymen, and disposed to render them every assistance which their means could afford. It has declined considerably in this county, as would appear from the reports received at Tralee, Killarney, Tarbert and Listowel; but cases of fever among the poor still present themselves at Tralee and Killarney; and at Dingle, in the parish of Ventry, where the population is dense, there are still a good many cases of fever. In the neighbourhood of Listowel and Tarbert its frequency has considerably diminished.

5.—The fever was very generally stated to have been more frequently than usual, attended with petechiæ, or spots; a remark which has been made in most parts of this province. Its character has been in general changed throughout the county, and it has assumed a milder form; but at Tralee cases of a severe kind had been admitted to the fever hospital within some weeks past.

6.—The preventive means seemed to have been employed on a more contracted scale in this than in other counties. Medical aid was reported to have been wanting in many districts; Kenmare, Castle Island, Kilorglyn and Ivragh, were said to be destitute of such assistance, and hospitals for the relief of fever patients were but thinly scattered throughout this county.

7.—As in other parts of the province, the distress was

much aggravated by the frequency of relapses, occurring from the time that fever first made its appearance.

8.—The constitutions of those who recovered did not appear to have been injured. At Killarney, dysentery was combined with or succeeded fever in some instances; but it did not there produce fatal consequences, as in other parts of the province.

9.—That it extended itself through families of the poorer classes has been already stated. The medical and other attendants on the sick have been severe sufferers; and it was observed to spread occasionally through families in comfortable circumstances also, in cases particularly where defective ventilation of the dwellings was observable. At Tralee, it was reported by an eminent physician, that in a respectable family, living at the distance of about twelve miles from the town, in a period included between the 1st of December and 16th of March, 1817, twelve persons had been attacked successively with fever. Fever was supposed to have been conveyed by servants, labourers and beggars, to the houses of the upper classes. The nurses in the hospitals of Tralee and Killarney suffered without any exception, and the physicians received the infection in a proportion far exceeding that observed among other persons in the same rank of life. At Tralee, of nine medical gentlemen who might be considered as peculiarly exposed, four were attacked, and two became victims of the disease: at Killarney, five out of seven of the medical gentlemen sickened; two of these had severe illnesses: thus it appears, that of sixteen medical persons, nine were attacked and two died; an occurrence proving that fever was not limited to the lower ranks, in cases of sufficient communication with the sick. The fact also confirms the assertion as to the greater proportional mortality produced by fever in the higher classes of so-

ciety; for in the hospitals of Killarney and Tralee, the mortality did not exceed one in seventeen.

In this county ten Roman Catholic clergymen died of fever; these unhappy events occurred chiefly in the year 1818. In the discharge of their office of attendance on the sick, the Roman Catholic clergy are peculiarly exposed to contagion; three Protestant clergymen also were reported at Tralee to have died of fever, and several no doubt have suffered from slight attacks, which escaped notice or recollection. It should be observed, that none of the small detachments of troops quartered at Ross Castle, in the neighbourhood of Killarney, sickened with the disease when so prevalent in this district; proving, that seclusion from the sick aided by comfortable circumstances and habits of cleanliness, affords a certain degree of security; and this remark applies very generally to the troops, so far as I could obtain information respecting them in this province. Here I may observe, that the immunity of this class of persons most probably depends on the causes now assigned; for when exposed in circumstances similar to those of the lower classes, they suffer equally with them: thus at Fermoy, in the county of Cork, in the 92d regiment, twenty-five cases of fever had occurred from the 13th of last February to the 4th of March; and of these, thirteen had the typhoid form, and two died. The regiment had been for some time engaged in severe duty for the revenue, and had lately made a long march in very bad weather.

COUNTY OF LIMERICK.

1, 2, 3.—IN the county of Limerick, the misery occa-

sioned by epidemic fever has not been exceeded in any of the counties hitherto reported on. According to the medical gentlemen of the city of Limerick, its commencement should be referred to the spring, or early part of the year 1817; however it is not improbable that it began at an earlier period; and that distress, arising from scarcity and other causes, increased the resort to hospitals about that time. No doubt can exist of its having prevailed in every district in the county of Limerick; though the want of establishments for the reception of fever patients in this county, except in the city of Limerick, renders it somewhat difficult to obtain information as to the character and progress of the disease through the county at large.

Its frequency seems to have been greatest in the year commencing from November 1817; and it was most mortal during the four months of November and December 1817, and January and February 1818, when the numbers dying in hospital amounted to more than one-seventh of the total number sent out. It was conjectured, and I believe with good reason, that one-fourth of the inhabitants of the town had sickened with fever; and at one time the hospital was so crowded, that in many of the rooms there were five ranges of beds strewed on each floor, some containing six, many four, and few, very few, appropriated to one patient; so that in a small room of twenty-four square feet, the number of patients was not unusually forty. But this miserable state did not long continue; the military hospital in the square was granted by government for fever patients, on the application of the governors of St. John's hospital, and the preventive system was continued with a degree of perseverance and activity proportioned to the exigency of circumstances; yet it has been confidently stated that some thousand persons sickened in their homes, and there received medical treatment, from the impossibility of accommodating them

in the institutions. So numerous were the admissions to the hospitals in the year commencing January 24th 1817, and ending January 23d 1818, as to exceed more than seven times those of some of the years most productive of fever previous to 1816. This unusual frequency of fever is partly attributable to the peculiar circumstances of some parts of this city, crowded to excess with a population miserable in the extreme, dwelling in lanes filthy, neglected, and so narrow that of some of them, it may be said without exaggeration, their breadth does not exceed eight or ten feet, that fresh and pure air can scarcely ever find access to them, as nuisances of the most offensive kind seemed every where to abound. Happily, however, the influence of these causes has not been sufficient to prevent a considerable decrease of fever in this city.

4.—Scarcity of provisions attended the commencement of epidemic fever here, as in other places. The poor in some parts of the county were compelled to collect esculent plants in the potatoe gardens; and I was assured that patients had been received into the hospitals, who had endeavoured to support life for some days together with the leaves of the wild turnip and other plants of this tribe. Deficiency of fuel, owing to the wetness of the season; an unusual resort of strangers and mendicants, to whom, in country places, the commencement of the sickness was frequently attributed, were evils perhaps more prevalent here than in other counties of this province; whilst want of employment, increased by failures in trade, added to the distress in a degree altogether unprecedented.

5.—The disease, as the returns (No. 18.) from St. John's hospital clearly prove, now presents a different form; and diminishing in frequency, has not become more mortal, as often happens, but on the contrary has assumed a milder type.

6.—It would be mere repetition to enter into a detail of the means employed in the hospitals to counteract the progress of fever. One of the hospitals (St. John's) has been long established, and conducted on the most approved principles, for the prevention of fever; its arrangements are in many respects entitled to imitation: its registry kept with order and precision; its managers most humane, zealous and intelligent; and sufficient funds seem alone wanting to extend its utility. Many dispensaries have been established throughout the county; but no fever hospitals, except in Limerick.

7, 8.—Relapses were frequent here, as in other places, and were attributed to errors in diet; they were almost totally confined to the lower classes.

9.—It extended through families in the lower ranks very generally. Five of the physicians, however, were attacked with fever: the event in one instance was fatal. The apothecary to St. John's hospital had three attacks of fever. All the nurses and housekeepers suffered in different degrees. This hospital has so often changed its nurses, chiefly from this cause, that it has had sixty-three within the last six months. Four of the nurses, I was informed, were lying ill of fever at the time of my visit.

Many of the Roman Catholic clergy in Limerick had suffered from the disease, and some of these more than once: one was reported to have taken fever in the Square hospital, of which he died. Several of the Protestant and Roman Catholic clergymen in the diocese suffered; among these were reported the Protestant clergyman of Rathkeall, and the Roman Catholic clergyman of Drumcallachar, to both of whom it proved fatal.

It may be right to observe, that the want of sewers in Limerick, particularly in the old town, must greatly tend to impair the health of its inhabitants.

COUNTY OF TIPPERARY.

1, 2, 3, 4.—IN the county of Tipperary, fever has declined more perhaps than in other parts of the province. This was inferred either from an inspection of the hospitals or from conference with medical or other gentlemen at Clonmell, Cahir, Cashell, Tipperary, Carrick-on-Suir, Roscrea and Templemore.

At Clonmell, the frequency of fever has been so great, that in a population of about 15,000 persons, three hospitals, together with sheds, in all containing 250 beds, were required for the accommodation of the sufferers: this happened in last July. The applications for admission amounted to from twelve to fifteen daily, and at times rose to twenty. It was calculated that one-third of the inhabitants, or more if dysenteric patients be included, had been sufferers. On March 14th ultimo, it appeared that the number of beds had been gradually reduced to sixty-three; the patients in hospitals were only twenty-one, and three convalescents, and the applications for admission did not exceed six per week: such had been the decline of fever; and most medical gentlemen supposed it to have fallen to its original standard of frequency. Similar reports were obtained at Cahir, Cashell, Tip-

perary and Templemore: at Roscrea and Carrick-on-Suir, the malady was not quite subdued, though greatly diminished. At the latter place its frequency has often fluctuated, but it has never been observed to decline so steadily as at present. At Roscrea the sufferings of the poor had been very great, similar to those reported in the county of Limerick. A temporary hospital had been erected, supported by private subscriptions and grants from government: at the time of my visit, it was to be closed from want of funds, though sickness still continued to spread through poor families. Its greatest prevalence in every part of this county occurred during the last summer and autumn: at the latter period, dysentery prevailed in most parts of the county, and proved very fatal in Clonmell. In other respects, accounts correspond with those received from other counties. In the brigade of artillery, during three years, from January 1816 to the present time, not more than five cases of simple fever had occurred, and but one fatal case. No class had been altogether exempt from its attacks; but the poor suffered chiefly from its frequency, and the richer classes more in proportion from its fatality.

5, 6.—The time of its first appearance was referred, by most medical gentlemen, to the spring, summer, or autumn of 1817. Its progress, and the means adopted for its prevention, were similar to those of other counties, and it seemed equally infectious, spreading among the medical and other attendants at hospitals.

7.—Relapses were very frequent, and at Clonmell proved very fatal. It seemed equally infectious here as in other counties. At Clonmell, five medical attendants were attacked. An active, zealous, and humane governor caught the disease, and all the nurses were attacked: two medical gentlemen died of it. The sur-

geon and apothecary had both been ill of fever during last April; and a physician and one of the nurses laboured under it at the time of my visit. Mendicants were supposed chiefly to have given origin to fever at Carrick-on-Suir, and many facts were stated which confirmed this opinion. No sickness had prevailed at Carrickbeg, till a sick family came into that place from Dungarvan.

The total decline of manufactures in Carrick-on-Suir has greatly added to the distresses of the inhabitants, and probably contributed in no small degree to extend the malady among them. It deserves remark, that fever has declined much more in the county of Tipperary than in the contiguous county, Waterford. The nature of the soils of these counties may in part explain the difference; the county of Tipperary consisting chiefly of limestone, which is not found in the other county, particularly in the neighbourhood of Waterford.

Thus it appears, that in every part of the preceding five counties of this province, epidemic fever has prevailed to an extent unprecedented in the recollection of any person living: that it is now generally on the decline, which is more steady than at any former period; and that in many places it has almost totally disappeared: that it commenced, in most parts of the province, about the end of 1816, or beginning of 1817, with the scarcity of provisions and general distress consequent thereon; and that the peculiar circumstances of the people, arising

from want of employment, have greatly furthered its progress. Its contagious nature is most fully established, by its seizing the medical and other attendants on hospitals, with scarcely any exception, and by its prevalence among the Roman Catholic clergy, as well as by its almost universal extension among the poor; it would, therefore, appear highly probable that its diffusion arose chiefly from strangers and mendicants moving through the country, carrying with them the seeds of infection. The crowding of apartments, and the increase of filth, and neglect, the consequences of the condition of the people at that time, must have tended also to disseminate contagion. These opinions respecting its contagious nature, seem to have taken complete hold on the minds even of the poorer classes, as appears from the practice so generally followed by them, of excluding from their families those who had sickened with fever.

As to the preventive means to be adopted, in order to obviate its future increase or recurrence, it is evident that every measure serving to better the condition of the people, and to diminish pauperism and mendicity, must have a tendency to render fever less frequent, by removing causes which favour its progress. But these are not perhaps so immediately within our reach as others which affect the source and origin of the evil. The encouragement of local societies for the relief of the poor through the country, would disclose their wants, make known the appearance of fever among them, and otherwise produce good results, by drawing together the different classes of society, which in this country are too distinct. Temporary fever hospitals, under the management of such societies, actively instituted and vigorously supported on the first appearance of fever in a district, would tend to check its progress. Much want of information occasionally appeared, as to the best mode of conducting such establish-

ments : in some hospitals various plans of a superior kind were in use, unknown in others ; at the same time defects were to be found occasionally, proceeding from want of information. The only remedy in this case appears to be the adoption of some plan by means of which information can be communicated to a common centre, and again diffused in every requisite direction. In every plan that may be devised, I would discourage the resort of the poor to towns in times of distress ; for I am persuaded this has been and still continues a fertile source of disease. The distribution of publications proceeding from persons well informed on the state of the poor and the means of obviating sickness, and having sufficient authority, derived from knowledge and experience, to command attention, would also contribute to prevent or restrain the progress of fever.

FRANCIS BARKER, M. D.

RETURN, (No. 1.)

Waterford.—House of Recovery.

Date.	Patents admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817 :			
January - -	52	48	3
February - -	44	45	1
March - -	56	48	2
April - -	40	52	4
May - -	71	48	4
June - -	77	75	5
July - -	77	72	1
August - -	101	85	4
September - -	84	90	1
October - -	104	94	5
November - -	100	94	2
December - -	124	118	4
1818 :			
January - -	127	100	6
February - -	104	113	4
March - -	100	107	1
April - -	118	116	4
May - -	114	108	8
June - -	200	156	3
July - -	313	261	5
August - -	340	322	9
September - -	325	306	11
October - -	332	328	17
November - -	308	296	18
December - -	348	319	23
1819 :			
January - -	377	317	23
February - -	328	283	16
March - -	357	396	25
Total - -	4,721	4,597	207

At the end of the year 1817, remained in the hospital, 50 patients.

At the end of 1818, remained in the hospital, 138 patients.

On the 20th of February 1819. remained in the hospital, 206 patients.

Seventeen of the nurses and servants of the house have been attacked with fever within the last fourteen months; four of them have been attacked twice or thrice within the above period.

One nurse died from fever.

There are at present 159 beds in the hospital, and the wards of the Leper House, which are appropriated to fever patients; 93 of them have iron bedsteads; 66 are on the floors of the wards; and 44 patients are obliged to lie two in a bed.

The number of patients admitted from the opening of this House of Recovery, in the year 1799, to the 1st of March 1819, were 10,018, of which, up to the 1st of March 1818, were 6,629, about 348 per year; in the last year, above nine times the average.

The expenses during the last year amounted to £3,628. 13s. 2d. of which sum £800 was received from the Government, the rest supplied by local taxation, annual subscriptions and donations.

A very large sum was also subscribed for relief of dysenteric patients and convalescents from fever.

Return from the Waterford House of Recovery, in quarterly periods, commencing January 1817.

Months.		Patients admitted.	D ^o cured.	D ^o died.
1817 :				
January, February, March	-	152	141	6
April, May, June	-	188	175	11
July, August, September	-	262	247	6
October, November, December	-	328	306	11
1818 :				
January, February, March	-	331	320	11
April, May, June	-	432	380	15
July, August, September	-	978	889	25
October, November, December	-	988	943	58
1819 :				
January, February, March	-	1,062	996	64
Total	-	4,721	4,597	207

In the first week after the convalescent committee had commenced their operations in January 1819, the number of patients admitted to the Fever Hospital amounted to 115.

The number of patients admitted in the week ending March 30th ultimo, amounted to 44 only; thus it is evident that in Waterford, fever was considerably on the decline at that period.

RETURN, (No. 2.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Cappoquin, county of Waterford; commencing February 6th, 1818.

							Patients.
From February 6th to July 4th, 1818, dismissed cured	-						117
Remain in fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Convalescent	-	-	-	-	-	-	16
Died	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	146

From July 4th to February 6th 1819, the fever cases amounted to 73 only.

RETURN, (No. 3.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Lismore, county of Waterford.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818:			
From May 18th	13	4	1
June - - -	24	19	1
July - - -	31	20	—
August - -	35	36	1
September -	17	26	—
October - -	19	14	1
November -	32	27	—
December -	28	21	1
1818:			
January - -	23	20	1
To February -	12	13	—
Total -	235	200	6

RETURN, (No. 4.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Tallow, county of
Waterford.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818:			
From June -	18	18	—
July - - -	38	37	1
August - -	27	26	1
September -	35	24	1
October - -	11	2	—
November -	27	26	1
December -	27	21	1
1819:			
January - -	14	12	2
To February 24th - -	10	—	—
Total -	207	166	7

Remaining in hospital 21, on February 24th.

Remaining in hospital 15 patients, on March 2d.

RETURN, (No. 5.)

From the House of Recovery at Youghal, county of
Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
January - -	5	5	—
February -	3	3	—
March - -	5	4	1
April - - -	8	8	—
May - - -	6	6	—
June - - -	10	10	—
July - - -	15	15	—
August - -	28	28	—

Return, (No. 5.) House of Recovery at Youghal, county
of Cork—*continued.*

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
September -	33	31	2
October - -	44	43	1
November -	45	44	1
December -	33	32	1
1818:			
January - -	32	31	1
February -	34	31	3
March - -	40	40	—
April - - -	33	31	2
May - - -	27	22	5
June - - -	22	21	1
July - - -	43	42	1
August - -	33	30	3
September -	30	30	—
October - -	35	34	1
November -	24	24	—
December -	19	19	—
1819:			
January - -	16	16	—
Total -	623	600	23

Remaining in the hospital, at present, eight patients, all convalescent.—
February 25th.

From July 1816 to July 1817, the number of patients admitted to the
hospital amounted to 51, of whom two died.

From July 1817 to July 1818, the number amounted to 386, of whom 16
died. The extern cases, during the latter period, were 936.

From July 1818 to February 16th 1819, the number of patients admitted
to the hospital amounted to 205, of whom four died. During that period,
the extern fever cases were 247, of whom four died.

RETURN, (No. 6.)

From the House of Recovery at Youghal, in quarterly periods, commencing January 1817.

Months.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817 :			
January, February, March -	13	12	1
April, May, June - -	24	24	—
July, August, September -	76	74	2
October, November, December,	122	119	3
1818 :			
January, February, March -	106	102	4
April, May, June - -	82	74	8
July, August, September -	106	102	4
October, November, December	78	77	1

In January last, sixteen patients only were admitted; and on February 25th, eight patients, all convalescent, remained in the hospital, which contained twenty beds.

RETURN, (No. 7.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Middleton, county of Cork.

Admitted to the temporary Fever Hospital, 74 patients, of whom two died.

The hospital is now closed.

RETURN, (No. 8.)

From the Fever Hospital in Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
From January	161	140	8
February - -	151	148	8
March - - -	159	160	5
April - - -	181	173	6
May - - -	230	221	6
June - - -	219	229	9
July - - -	213	190	5
August - -	239	220	7
September -	388	324	12
October - -	425	426	19
November -	390	322	11
December -	489	358	11
1818:			
January - -	327	301	13
February - -	344	320	11
March - - -	415	390	12
April - - -	411	394	4
May - - -	509	485	11
June - - -	556	535	8
July - - -	657	636	8
August - -	649	623	13
September -	542	507	22
October - -	542	519	10
November -	465	439	13
December -	462	437	12
1819:			
January - -	377	325	15
February - -	342	295	10
To March -	374	325	12
Total -	10,117	9,442	281

RETURN, (No. 9.)

From the South Fever Asylum, in Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured,	Died.
1817 : December -	195	78	9
1818 : January -	139	121	10
February -	137	138	7
March -	165	171	5
April -	204	177	12
May -	212	233	8
June -	251	219	5
July -	282	270	6
August -	264	301	8
September -	207	188	12
October -	234	206	7
November -	215	271	11
December -	204	199	9
1819 : January -	167	134	8
February -	138	106	5
Total -	3,014	2,812	120

This hospital is now closed.

RETURN, (No. 10.)

From the Peacock-lane Fever Asylum, in Cork.

From July 1st 1817, to July 1st 1818.

Number of Persons admitted	-	-	-	3,015
Sent home cured	-	-	-	2,783
Died	-	-	-	102
At present in the Asylum	-	-	-	128
				3,015
From the 1st July to 24th August, when the house was closed	-	-	-	528
Died of this latter number	-	-	-	10

RETURN, (No. 11.)

Of the number of patients discharged cured, and died, in all the different Fever hospitals of Cork, in the years 1817, 1818, and part of 1819, in monthly periods.

Months.	Fever Hospital and South Fever Asylum; discharged.	Died.	Peacock-lane Fever Asylum; discharged.	Died.	Grand Total.
1817:			1817:		
January	140	8	Note.—Monthly returns from this hospital have not been obtained. Opened on July 1st.		...
February	148	8			...
March -	160	5			...
April -	173	6		...	...
May -	221	6		...	...
June -	229	9		...	...
July -	190	5		..	...
August	220	7	...	...	...
September	324	12	...	...	...
October	426	19	...	...	...
November	322	11	...	...	...
December	456	20	...	...	...
1818:					
January	422	23	...	...	...
February	458	18	...	...	...
March	561	17	...	...	...
April	571	16	...	...	...
May	718	19	...	...	...
June	754	13	...	...	...
July	906	14	2,783 Closed the 24th	102	...
August	924	21		10	...
September	695	34	528	...	...
October	725	17	...	...	...
November	710	24	...	...	..
December	636	21	...	...	...
1819:					
January	459	23	...	...	...
February	401	13	...	...	...
March	325	12	...	...	...
Total	12,254	401	3,311	112	16,078

RETURN, (No. 12.)

Of Patients relieved from the Dispensary at Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Of these, were Patients in Fever.
1817 :		
January -	542	108
February -	482	121
March -	530	100
April -	626	213
May -	776	359
June -	795	475
July -	781	420
August -	734	480
September,	822	554
October -	1,077	635
November -	1,055	649
December -	1,005	639
1818 :		
January -	1,101	849
February -	989	685
March -	1,116	740
April -	1,143	682
May -	1,311	866
June -	1,593	1,108
July -	1,781	1,203
August -	1,710	1,173
September -	1,513	1,015
October -	1,325	889
November -	1,109	697
December -	931	573
Total -	24,841	15,233

The greater number of the above fever patients, were sent to hospitals.

RETURN, (No. 13)

From the Fever Hospital at Bandon, county of Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818 :			
From Mar. 13th	14	11	3
April -	21	20	1
May -	48	46	2
June -	109	105	4
July -	268	260	8
August -	150	144	6
September -	190	180	10
October -	132	116	16
November -	72	66	6
December -	69	68	1
1819 :			
January -	68	60	4
To Feb. 28th -	37	10	1
Total -	1,178	1,086	62

In the hospital on the 1st of March, 27 patients.

Total number of beds 49.

Number of beds vacant, 22.

RETURN, (No. 14.)

From the Dispensary and Fever Hospital, Fermoy,
county of Cork.In the year 1817, received the benefits of the Dispensary and Fever
Hospital ;

Interns	-	-	-	-	105
Externs	-	-	-	-	980
Total	-	-	-	-	1,085
In the year 1818 ;					
Interns	-	-	-	-	346
Externs	-	-	-	-	1,000
Total	-	-	-	-	1,346

In June last the number of fever patients amounted to 101 ; of these, 42 were intern the remainder extern patients.

Temporary hospitals were erected ; but on December 31st 1818, it was reported that the patients in the hospital were

	.	-	14
In extra house	-	-	4
Externs	-	-	25
			—
Total	-	-	45
			—

Showing a great decline ; and this has been progressive.

RETURN, (No. 15.)

From the Fever Hospital at Mallow, county of Cork.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817 ;			
From June	15	6	...
July	21	10	...
August	54	50	4
September	87	74	5
October	56	60	4
November	48	53	2
December	56	53	2
1818 ;			
January	77	61	2
February	69	50	3
March	50	45	14
April	65	65	4
May	84	56	16
June	81	78	11
July	79	75	8
August	78	78	8
September	94	82	8
October	91	89	5
November	48	48	6
December	50	64	5
1819 ;			
January	47	35	2
To February	37	48	2
Total	1,287	1,160	109

The number of bedsteads in this hospital amounted to 45.

The number of patients in the hospital, 17 only, on the 4th of March last.

RETURN, (No. 16.)

From the Fever Hospital at Killarney, in the county of Kerry.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
July -	48	47	1
August -	46	46	...
September -	50	50	...
October -	41	40	1
November -	47	47	...
December -	64	62	2
1818:			
January -	98	95	3
February -	87	86	1
March -	86	83	3
April -	70	69	1
May -	135	134	1
June -	146	144	2
July -	97	95	2
August -	78	78	...
September -	68	68	...
October -	49	49	...
November -	51	50	1
December -	42	41	1
1819:			
January -	22	21	1
February -	22	4	1
Total -	1,347	1,309	21

This hospital contained 21 bedsteads for fever patients; and the total number of patients, including many convalescents in hospital, amounted to 18.

RETURN, (No. 17.)

From the Fever Hospital at Tralee, county of Kerry.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Died.
1817 :		
From August 8 to September 8 }	26	1
October 8 - - -	36	1
November 8 - - -	39	2
December 8 - - -	40	...
1818 :		
January 8 - - -	42	...
February 8 - - -	39	...
March 8 - - -	28	...
April 8 - - -	40	1
May 8 - - -	43	1
June 8 - - -	56	...
July 8 - - -	70	...
August 8 - - -	82	...
September 8 - - -	66	1
October 8 - - -	61	1
November 8 - - -	49	3
December 8 - - -	49	2
1819 :		
January 8 - - -	37	...
February 8 - - -	30	1
March 8 - - -	22	...
Total - - -	855	14

The number of beds in the hospital, 24.

The number of patients 10 ; all convalescent, March 7th 1819.

RETURN, (No. 18.)

Of Fever Patients admitted into St. John's Hospital, at
Limerick.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1816 :			
August -	66	66	1
September -	58	44	6
October -	74	67	3
November -	58	60	3
December -	75	46	7
1817 :			
January -	78	85	1
February -	110	112	3
March -	136	106	8
April -	175	157	7
May -	229	189	24
June -	187	191	10
July -	265	178	14
August -	274	251	24
September -	265	276	12
October -	240	220	20
November -	250	203	23
December -	265	181	25
1818 :			
January -	221	190	49
February -	196	177	30
March -	181	175	18
April -	194	138	22
May -	206	205	20
June -	261	281	10
July -	387	330	8
August -	382	385	16
September -	342	338	10
October -	375	449	13
November -	315	394	10
December -	365	306	11
1819 :			
January -	203	185	6
February -	159	165	7
To March 10th	51	51	6
Total -	6,743	6,201	427

Number of beds 62. Do. at present occupied, 55.

The use of the military hospital in the square was granted by Government in consequence of the increase of fever; and from the 6th of January to October 6th 1818, 2,663 patients were admitted to these asylums.

The military hospital contained 72 beds and 41 patients, on March 10th 1819; and it was about to be closed at that time.

RETURN, (No. 19.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Tipperary.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818:			
February	10	4	1
March	16	11	1
April	20	17	1
May	33	22	4
June	21	17	3
July	36	26	5
August	25	25	3
September	15	19	1
October	23	15	3
November	15	24	3
December	19	14	...
1819:			
January	3	12	3
Total	236	206	28

RETURN, (No. 20.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Cashel, county
of Tipperary.

Date.	Patients admitted	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
From July 22d	14	2	—
August -	57	33	2
September -	42	50	1
October -	79	35	—
November -	19	57	2
December -	26	36	1
1818:			
January -	27	21	1
February -	17	11	1
March -	36	33	2
April -	19	15	8

(continued)

Return, (No. 20.) From the temporary Fever Hospital,
Cashel, (*continued.*)

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818 :			
May -	26	29	6
June -	29	22	4
July -	46	31	7
August -	23	32	3
September -	51	27	—
October -	39	50	1
November -	27	33	4
December -	14	22	1
1819 :			
January -	13	7	1
February -	17	18	1
To March 13th	8	2	1
Total -	629	566	47

The number of beds, 30.

The number of patients, on the 12th of March, only 10 ; and of these, one-half were in a state of convalescence.

RETURN, (No. 21.)

From the Fever Hospital at Cahir, county of Tipperary.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
From January } 1815, to Jan. } 1816 -	49	49	—
From January } 1816, to Jan. } 1817 -	59	57	2

(*continued*)

Return, (No. 21.) Fever Hospital at Cahir, County of
Tipperary, (*continued.*)

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1817:			
January -	14	14	—
February -	7	6	1
March -	—	—	—
April -	17	17	—
May -	28	26	2
June -	12	10	2
July -	23	21	2
August -	33	33	—
September -	35	33	2
October -	34	33	1
November -	18	17	1
December -	29	29	—
1818:			
January -	30	28	2
February -	25	25	—
March -	36	33	3
April -	21	20	1
May -	28	28	—
June -	54	53	1
July -	49	48	1
August -	35	33	2
September -	51	49	2
October -	39	38	1
November -	28	28	—
December -	18	17	1
Total -	772	745	27

REMARK.

The patients were admitted to the hospital during two years, commencing with January 1815, and ending with January 1817, at the rate of from four to five only per month. This hospital contained accommodation for 54 patients. On the 12th March last, there were only two patients in the hospital, both in a convalescent state.

RETURN, (No. 22.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Templemore,
County of Tipperary.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818:			
From Septem- ber 1st -	24	23	1
October -	22	21	1
November -	9	9	—
December -	14	14	—
1819:			
January -	7	7	—
February -	9	7	2
To March 20	6	—	—
Total	91	81	4

RETURN, (No. 23.)

From the temporary Fever Hospital at Carrick-on-Suir,
County of Tipperary.

Patients admitted to the temporary hospital, from November 1st

1817 to January 12th 1818 - - - 45

Admitted from January 12th to May 1st 1818 - 200

On May 1st, a more commodious Hospital, fit for the accommodation of 52
patients, was established.

Date.	Patients admitted	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818:			
May -	45	34	3
June -	62	53	—
July -	119	110	3
August -	87	83	1
September -	66	96	4
October -	79	51	4
November -	80	79	3
December -	56	59	6
1819:			
January -	29	29	4
February -	68	47	2
Total -	961	641	30

RETURN, (No. 24.)

From the different Fever Hospitals at Clonmell, County of Tipperary.

Date.	Patients admitted.	Discharged cured.	Died.
1818 :			
January -)	457	336	17
February - }			
March - }			
April -	255	234	10
May -	218	181	11
June -	384	287	22
July -	337	304	11
August -	341	320	25
September -	266	279	21
October -	158	206	13
November -	156	176	12
December -	88	96	5
1819 :			
January -	69	97	3
February -	46	57	4
Total -	2,775	2,603	154

Total number of beds in the hospital at present, 63.

Remaining in the hospital on March 13th, 21 patients and three convalescents.

Fever has never been so little prevalent as at present, since its first invasion epidemically.

II.

REPORT OF FEVER IN THE PROVINCE OF CONAUGHT, INCLUDING THE COUNTY OF CLARE.

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

1.—THE county of Galway is never altogether free from Fever; cases of it are always to be met with in the principal towns; and the villages are never exempt from it.

No district has escaped; where the population has been less condensed, there has been less fever in proportion; and wherever cleanliness and ventilation have been practised, it has died away.

2.—The soldiers were exempt from fever in Galway, Gort, Loughrea and Tuam. This was attributed to their being kept apart from the people of the towns, and from their habits of cleanliness, and attention to the personal comforts of food, clothing and fuel. Fever has not shown itself in the gaol of Galway, nor in the charter school of Monivae: the same attentions have procured immunity to these classes of people. Few amongst the better classes have had fever, but when it has appeared amongst them it has been generally more fatal. The epidemic has been severe and fatal to those who were anxiously engaged in farming or mercantile speculations, and to those whose

circumstances were reduced by the fall of lands, and of the price of cattle, and who were thus thrown into embarrassed circumstances: fortunately those classes, from their superior comforts of cleanliness, were, comparatively speaking, exempt; the instances of attacks of fever being rare amongst them.

3.—The epidemic shewed itself early in the southern part of Conaught; this might have been expected, from the condition of the principal towns in the province. The close contracted manner in which the houses are built, the condensed state of the population, together with the total neglect of cleanliness and ventilation, render the occupants peculiarly liable to attacks of contagious fever, which is always resident in the towns where no measures of prevention are taken, and no plan of separation practised under ordinary circumstances.

Fever accordingly showed itself earliest in those towns where the population is most closely collected. It began to excite alarm in Galway, the latter end of summer 1816, and in the neighbouring villages early in 1817. Its appearance in Ballinasloe, Monivae, Loughrea, Gort, Tuam, Headford and Dunmore, was somewhat later than in Galway; it occurred in these stations at the same time early in 1817. And there is reason to conclude that the extension of fever was much indebted to the weekly markets, which are much crowded, and where such opportunities were allowed for promiscuous intercourse between the people of the towns and those of the country.

4.—When an epidemic constitution prevailed, Galway was well circumstanced to favour its extension: the streets are narrow and dirty; dunghills and stagnant pools are frequently to be met with under the staircases of some of the better houses; a separate family lives on each floor,

and there is scarcely any rear to them ; add to this, that the cellars are filled with poor of the lowest order, and of the most negligent and filthy habits.

There is a village called The Cloddagh, a little to the south-west of the town, on the beach, where the fishermen reside ; here fever prevailed much.

The quay where the fish-market is held, is in a most offensive condition ; immense shoals of fish are there exposed to sale, heaps of them lie on the ground piled up, the offal of them is thrown down ; so that a person must literally walk through animal substances in a state of putrefaction, if he wishes to pass in that direction. The stench from this can be perceived all over the town, when the wind blows westerly, which is at least nine months in the year ; this nuisance is never removed except when the heavy rains wash it away, and thus render the atmosphere more salubrious for a time.

Although there ought to be a good supply of fresh water in Galway, the lake above the town being contracted into a river ; yet, from the practice of washing the fish in the river, and the negligence of those who supply the town, the water is taken where the tide comes up, and where the fish are washed. Those who drink it, strangers especially, become subject to a bowel complaint : there is reason to suppose that the putrid atmospheric exhalations arising from the fish market, contribute likewise to this.

In other respects Galway may be considered to be healthy, the ground dry and rocky ; provisions cheap and plenty for those who can purchase them.

The epidemic, from its first appearance in Galway,

continued fully two years; its greatest height and mortality were in March 1818; it began to decline in December 1818, and at present, fever in Galway is nearly in its ordinary proportion.

The epidemic was at its height, both as to prevalence and mortality, at Ballinasloe in March 1818; at Monivae and Tuam in June 1818; at Loughrea in September 1818, and at Gort in October 1818.

During the continuance of the disease in other parts of the county of Galway, fever prevailed likewise at Ouchterard, and in the extensive districts of Joice country and Conamara. The character of the fever there was generally mild, but still the mortality was considerable, as there was no medical assistance in the country.

The epidemic pressed most generally on the poor or lower orders. Antecedent to its appearance they were in a state of despondency for want of employment; they were unable to purchase food or clothing for their families. The small quantity of sustenance they could procure was of bad quality; wet potatoes and bad oatmeal were the products of the harvests of 1816 and 1817. Whole families were obliged to lie with scarcely any covering; they had no fire to cook their scanty fare. After having been exposed to the cold rains of these inclement seasons, they searched the fields for esculent roots; and the Prasha weed in many instances served them for a meal.

Numbers of the poor villagers formed themselves into vagrant hordes, and traversed the country; fever often broke out amongst them: hence they generally carried contagion with them, and often communicated it to those who gave them sustenance and shelter.

Those who were unable to proceed, from having been seized with fever, were placed in huts which were built over them, as they chanced to lie against a wall or a ditch. They were supplied with water and buttermilk by the poor in the vicinity; if there were resident gentry, with porter, wine, gruel and medicines. The mortality was not considerable amongst patients of this description; they were much better circumstanced as to separation and ventilation, than if they were lodged in the inner chamber of a close cabin; and their attendants ran less hazard. For the most part they were placed in public stations, often near a chapel; they were therefore not neglected, being supplied with drink, food and medicine; small contributions of money were also given by those who passed, which were of the utmost service.

The disease was met with mostly in the cellars occupied by the poor in Galway, also in the cabins which compose the suburbs; and in the fishing village, which is close to the high-water mark on a dirty strand.

In the suburbs of Loughrea, fever prevailed much, also in the mountain villages, which are situated on swamps and bogs. Loughrea is much exposed to cold damp winds, which blow across the lake from the south-west; and a considerable quantity of rain falls there, from the vicinity of a mountainous range to the southward, which attracts the clouds.

In Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Tuam, the poor suffered much for want of fuel; the bogs were so overflowed in summer, that it was impracticable to bring home the turf. Deprived of this comfort, in addition to their other wants, the poor were unable to resist the effects of the inclement seasons: disease therefore naturally ensued.

5.—The character of the disease was the same throughout the whole province; it is the fever which is always to be met with in Ireland: it varied a little in its symptoms, according to the seasons. In winter and spring the lungs were often affected; in summer and autumn the stomach and bowels were frequently disordered; in a great majority of cases the head was much engaged. Spots or petechiæ were very generally present. For the most part, the poor had the fever in a low tedious form; latterly, its type has become shorter; and most of those who appear to have a crisis or favourable change about the 7th or 9th day, or earlier, relapse, but ultimately recover. Another change has also been observed within these few months; the fever is more inflammatory; there is more reaction, a higher degree of temperature is evolved: the physicians of the country attribute this last change to the improved stamina of the people, who of late have had food of better quality, and in greater abundance.

6.—The means taken to arrest the epidemic in Galway, were judicious and effectual, so far as the physicians were concerned; but they were not sufficiently seconded by the assistance of the people of Galway and its vicinity. A fever hospital was opened in November 1817, and attended gratuitously by the physicians in turn; some of the junior medical men attended the poor at their houses, and in the villages, where they had great difficulties to encounter in practising ventilation, and in endeavouring to establish habits of improved cleanliness. The hospital was open from November 1817 to 11th August 1818: Government contributed £.150 to its support. The number of fever cases in August 1818 began to decline, just before the hospital was discontinued, after having given most effectual aid in arresting the progress of the epidemic; most of the poor who had fever in the cellars and suburbs, being removed to the hospital. The impression

which the fever hospital made in arresting the epidemic, may be calculated from this, that fever began to decline sooner in Galway as an epidemic, than in any other town in the county; it began to cease in Galway in Autumn 1818; whereas there was no abatement of the disease in Ballinasloe, Tuam, Monivae, Loughrea or Gort, until December 1818. This variation in the time of the disappearance of the epidemic, may fairly be ascribed to the effects of the fever hospital in Galway, whilst no such institution existed in any of the other towns in the county.

In Ballinasloe, and the adjacent district, the poor had the advantage of the active exertion of their landlord in enforcing cleanliness and ventilation, in the distribution of straw, food and medicines. Ballinasloe is kept cleaner than almost any town in Ireland; the poor are encouraged to practise cleanliness, by annual premiums; and discouraged from allowing dirty habits to prevail, by penalties. Had not such swarms of mendicants passed along the great road which leads through Ballinasloe, it is possible that the epidemic might have been soon extinguished there; especially as the whole district had the advantage of medical aid from the dispensaries of Ballinasloe and Ahascragh, which were in active operation during the whole time of the epidemic. In addition to the money subscribed for these dispensaries, and that contributed by the grand jury, liberal subscriptions were made by the country gentlemen and inhabitants of Ballinasloe, to procure sustenance for the poor.

In Loughrea, meetings of the inhabitants of the town and neighbouring gentry were held; in addition to a liberal grant of £.130 from Government, money was subscribed and distributed amongst the poor in the suburbs of the town and in the villages; this enabled them to procure food, for which, antecedent to this measure, they

were obliged to come into the town, many of them with fever on them, others convalescent, by which means the epidemic had been extended to the shopkeepers.

This distribution of money in small sums, which was done by the physicians who attended gratuitously, and the priests, appeared to be effectual in putting a stop to the progress of fever, by preventing promiscuous intercourse between the villages and the town: an active remedial treatment of the sick, also assisted to subdue the epidemic. Had there been a fever hospital, there is reason to suppose the fever would have subsided earlier. In Loughrea there is a population of above 5,000; the labour therefore of three or four medical men, who attended the poor gratuitously, may be very well calculated.

In Woodford, a village about six miles from Loughrea, there is a dispensary which gave considerable assistance to the poor, and arrested the progress of fever; so that now it has ceased there as an epidemic.

In Gort, about eight months after the visitation of the epidemic, a dispensary was established under the direction of a medical gentleman, who had previously attended the poor in fever gratuitously, both in the town and in the villages: the good effects of this establishment were soon evinced by a gradual diminution of fever.

In Monivae there is a dispensary, the physician attached to which attends the poor in the town and villages.

In Tuam also there is a dispensary; the physician annexed to this establishment attends the poor in the town and neighbouring district. The progress of the epidemic has been completely arrested by these two very effective institutions.

In parts of the county of Galway remote from medical aid, the gentry and the Protestant clergy dispensed medicines, and paid village nurses for attending the sick. Food and straw were likewise distributed. The good effects of these measures were very soon conspicuous.

But in the extensive districts of Conamara and Joice country, which are separated from the rest of the county of Galway by Lough Corrib, where there are but few resident gentry, and where the population is scattered over a wild boggy mountainous range, fever prevailed very generally, and still prevails, scarcely any curative measures having been adopted to put a stop to its progress.

7.—Relapses during the earlier periods of the epidemic, whilst the fever continued in a low protracted type, were not often observed, unless in those instances where they were induced by indiscretion, either in taking food too soon, or from premature exposure to cold; but since the *short fever* (as it has been called in the country) has become the prevailing form, relapses are more common amongst all classes of the community.

8.—No particular diseases have been observed to follow the fever in the county of Galway; the general health of those who have passed through the epidemic disease appears to have been equally good as before they were subjected to the disease.

No doubt is entertained in the county of Galway as to the contagious nature of the epidemic fever; amongst the lower orders it uniformly extended through every individual of a family where one became affected. It was carried from place to place by the beggars; hence it spread more rapidly in the suburbs of the towns and villages where the mendicants were usually lodged; and this ex-

tension of febrile contagion ceased (comparatively speaking) when measures were taken to exclude these hordes of strangers from sojourning in the towns. The disease rarely extended amongst the families of the better classes; cleanliness, ventilation, washing of floors, change of linen, and of the sick into separate chambers, always afforded immunity to those who resided in the same house.

Two of the physicians in Galway had fever in a very severe form, and narrowly escaped. Most of the hospital and village nurses had severe attacks of fever: in fine, few of those who were in close attendance on the sick escaped being infected.

In Ballinasloe the fever was equally disposed to spread; it was most rife in the suburbs, to which the mendicants had access: three villages, which were out of the line of their march, were less affected with fever. The physician who attends the dispensaries of Ballinasloe and Ahascragh suffered two distinct attacks of fever, but did not relax in his attentions to the poor. All the nurses who were employed to attend the lower orders in the villages, had the fever in their turn.

Fever was equally contagious at Gort and its vicinity; the priest here suffered from fever, which he caught from his attendance on the village-poor, but he recovered.

In Loughrea the medical men and the clergy of both persuasions escaped having the fever, although there was sufficient evidence of its contagious nature, in its general diffusion through the habitations of the lower orders, when one became affected, and from its prevailing most in the suburbs, where the mendicants took up their quarters.

In the other towns and villages in the county of Gal-

way, the fever equally evinced its contagious nature; many priests who were much exposed, and all the village nurses, invariably suffered from the epidemic in their turn.

The disease was equally disposed to spread in the districts of Conamara and Joice country, as already related.

COUNTY OF CLARE.

1.—IN the town of Ennis, fever still continues, but in a very inconsiderable degree; there had been a temporary and alarming increase in November 1818; but the epidemic has rapidly decreased since that period. Fever has also declined considerably throughout the whole county of Clare, and may be considered as now very little above the ordinary proportion of fever which is always to be met with in the towns and villages.

2.—The same exemptions as in Galway occurred here. The military, the prisoners in the gaol, and the better orders, all escaped. This was attributed to their superior personal comforts, and to the circumstance of attention having been bestowed on cleanliness, ventilation, and separation from the infected.

3.—Fever had appeared in Ennis early in 1817; it was most severe after the scarcity of the Summer 1817; its fatality however was never very considerable, except amongst those who had not the advantage of medical aid.

4.—The lower classes were almost exclusively those affected. They had suffered, as they had in the county of Galway, privations of every kind, in food, fuel and clothing; they were dispirited from want of employment; and in the town of Ennis many of them lived in close dirty cellars, the streets narrow, and the population condensed within a small space. The town also had been remarkably dirty and full of nuisances antecedent to the visitation of the epidemic.

5.—The symptoms of the present disease are the same as those of the fever which is always to be met with in the towns and villages; it was more severe in 1817; and the head, at that time, was much affected: it has become milder since the stomach and chest have been occasionally attacked. Bowel complaints are at present prevalent (weather cold and damp) but not combined with fever.

6.—The epidemic was combated by the active exertions of a committee, who meet once a week; they have superintended the sweeping and cleansing of the streets and lanes, the removal of nuisances, and white-washing, both in the town and villages. A temporary fever hospital was fitted up on the 16th December 1817, with a convalescent ward, in a contiguous building; the hospital was conducted by the gratuitous attendance of five physicians. It is supported by subscription, and by money given by the grand jury, aided by a grant of £.200 from Government. There were only two patients in fever, and a few convalescents in the hospital, at the time of this inspection.

Relapses from fever did occasionally occur, sometimes from cold, sometimes from errors in diet; but they were comparatively few. Recurrence of fever from re-infection, took place when patients returned to their close and

ill-ventilated homes, as it was impossible to make them comply with the directions of the committee.

When fever occurred in a house, it invariably extended through the whole family amongst the lower orders; one medical man had fever, but recovered. It seemed most disposed to spread in spring and summer 1818; it did not extend to the upper classes.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

THROUGHOUT almost the whole of the county of Roscommon, the epidemic was severely felt. It prevailed in Athlone, Roscommon, Strokestown and Boyle; also at Elphin, Tulsk, Castlerea, and Mount Talbot; at present it has nearly disappeared. In Athlone there are still a few fever cases, and Strokestown is not altogether exempt from it. But Roscommon and Boyle, where it was most general at one period, are now altogether free from the epidemic.

In the vicinity of all these towns, the dry rocky grounds were more exempt from fever than the morasses, boggy and mountainous districts; in the former description of places, the crops were of better quality, and the potatoes dryer.

The military and the upper classes escaped fever generally, throughout the whole county. Their exemption is attributed to their superior comforts, as to their habita-

tions, food, clothing, and fuel, and their habits of cleanliness; as well as to practising separation when fever did occur. In the town of Roscommon, however, an exception to this occurred. Fever appeared amongst the soldiers at one period, but it was soon got under. It showed itself afterwards in the Charter School, thirty-nine children having passed through the fever, one of whom died.

3.—In most of the towns and villages in the county of Roscommon, the epidemic appeared early in the year 1817: it showed itself a little later at Boyle; there it prevailed very generally. At Roscommon, Elphin and Strokestown, its greatest prevalence and mortality were from June to September 1817; at Boyle, in October 1817; at Athlone, in February 1818.

The average mortality amongst the lower orders who had medical attendance, was computed to be about one in thirty.

4.—Many causes conspired to injure the bodily health, as well as depress the mind, amongst the middling and lower orders, which thus subjected them to attacks of fever. The bad quality of the food, which disagreed with the stomach and bowels, the scarcity of provisions, want of fuel to cook their meals, and to protect the lower orders from cold and damp. The breaking of the provincial Bank, which affected the middling and lower orders, produced a general despondency; also, the want of employment occasioned by the scarcity of money.

Under these circumstances, almost every individual who went to work or who used the slightest exertion, was seized with shivering, and fever immediately followed;

those also who were most exposed to wet and cold, experienced the same ill consequences.

Among the better classes, many of those who were affected with fever had sustained severe losses, either by the failure of the Tuam Bank, or by the fall on the prices of land and stock. The final issue of a considerable proportion of such cases was unfavourable.

5.—The epidemic was the ordinary fever usually to be met with in Ireland, but it was modified according to the season and to circumstances; at first it was a low fever, which ran out to several days, the head being much engaged; in the Summer and Autumn, the stomach and bowels were affected; in Winter and Spring, the lungs. In January 1818, the fever became more inflammatory, and it has since shortened in its period or number of days. This short fever generally terminates by profuse perspiration, within nine days at furthest; often so early as the 5th or 6th day.

6.—In Athlone, the poor had medical aid from a dispensary; small subscriptions were made, and food distributed to the poor. There was also a donation of the Lord Lieutenant's, of £.50. Whitewashing and fumigation were practised, but the lower orders were very averse to allow such measures to be taken. These measures, although less energetic than what were called for under the severe pressure of the epidemic, and in a town so populous as Athlone, were still effectual in preventing the extension of fever; the small subscription enabled many families to procure subsistence at a time they were unable to support themselves by labour; and the distribution of medicines, under the gratuitous exertions of the physicians, ultimately reduced the proportion of fever

cases within the usual limits always to be met with in a town with so condensed a population as Athlone.

In Roscommon there was more energy; the magistrate, attended by a physician and the priests, went through the town and admonished the people not to harbour mendicants, or to have any intercourse with them. Constables were stationed to keep them out of the town. The gaol was kept free from fever, by a strict system of separation; no visitors were allowed to go there unless they were inspected by the physician. Large subscriptions of money were collected in aid of the poor; food also was distributed. This relief was limited to two parishes, in order to prevent promiscuous intercourse and to exclude strangers. Ventilation and whitewashing were practised as far as could be done. Some districts were unprovided with medical aid; for instance, between Roscommon and Dunmore, from Roscommon to Athlone, from Roscommon to Castlerea: the mortality in these districts was more considerable.

In Boyle, in addition to £.40 advanced by Government, subscriptions were also made; a soup kitchen was opened in the town in June 1817. Houses were ventilated and whitewashed, and fumigation was attempted; but this latter measure could not be managed with effect in the dirty cabins of the poor. A dispensary afforded very effective medical aid to the poor, under the direction of the clergyman, and the active exertion of three or four medical attendants.

Where many lay in fever in the same house, separation was effected by placing some of them in outhouses; and in many instances temporary huts were erected for their accommodation; so that the epidemic appeared to be ul-

timately subdued by perseverance in these active and well-concerted measures.

In Strokestown, where there is no dispensary, little exertion was made to put down the fever. Food, money and medicines were supplied by charitable individuals in the vicinity; and an apothecary gave his gratuitous assistance. Fever still lingers there.

At Elphin there is a dispensary, from whence all the sick poor within three miles of the town are attended; the whole expense of this, including a salary to the physician, is paid by the bishop.

This establishment contributed to arrest the progress of the epidemic, by giving medical assistance to the poor in fever, and by pointing out those who were fit objects for further relief.

At the time fever was most pressing, the bishop opened a fever hospital at Elphin, and supported it at his own expense until the death of Dr. Feeney (who died of fever); at this time there was only one patient in the hospital: the epidemic therefore at Elphin, may be fairly said to be put down by the judicious and energetic measures that were put in practice.

Dispensaries are also established at Castlerea, Tulsk, and Mount Talbot; these establishments gave considerable aid in subduing the epidemic in their respective districts.

7.—Relapses were frequent during the whole course of the epidemic, especially since the fever has become shorter in its period; the relapses are attributed, by the country physicians, to want of proper sustenance during the con-

valescence of the poor, and to too early exposure to cold, damp, and fatigue. Re-infections have also occurred occasionally, from the poor having few changes of clothes, and from living in crowded cabins, where whole families have been ill of fever.

8.—Few diseases have been the result of the fever. In some few instances, temporary dropsy has appeared in persons advanced in life, and symptoms threatening consumption have been observed in younger subjects; but in neither cases have these occurrences proved fatal.

9.—The epidemic invariably spread through every individual of a family, when one became infected, amongst the lower orders: it was less disposed to do so amongst the better classes, on account of their improved state as to ventilation and cleanliness, and the facility of separation in different chambers.

In Athlone, the fever appeared to be most disposed to extend itself in the months of July, August, and September 1817. None of the medical attendants died from fever; although some of the assistants, the junior especially, had the disease in a mild form.

In Roscommon, this disposition to spread was most observable in June 1817. The medical attendants of Elphin and Ballimoe caught the fever, and died from it. At Strokestown, the apothecary's son and daughter had it: here the disease appeared to be extensively disseminated by hordes of mendicants coming into the town and occupying lodgings in it.

In Boyle, fever spread rapidly; its general diffusion, which was in Autumn 1817, was increased by serving soup to the poor in the town; this attracted crowds, who were obliged to wait a considerable time exposed to cold and wet; the convalescents from fever having unrestricted

intercourse with those who were well. The contagious nature of the fever in Boyle was fully evinced by the foregoing fact. Two of the medical men had fever in a mild form; and the clergyman's son suffered from it in a severe and protracted form.

COUNTY OF MAYO.

1.—IN the county of Mayo the epidemic fever was much felt; it prevailed in Ballinrobe, Hollymount, Westport, Newport, Castlebar, Killala, and Ballina; the mountainous district of Erris was also severely afflicted. It is very much on the decline in all the places mentioned; indeed, as an epidemic, it may be considered as almost extinct, with the exception of Killala, where there is rather more fever than in ordinary seasons; and in the district of Erris, where there is no medical assistance.

2.—The same exemption occurred in Mayo as in Galway and Roscommon; the better classes, the military, and the prisoners in the gaols, escaped fever: they were supposed to derive their immunity from having enjoyed the comforts of better food, better clothing, and abundance of fuel.

The dry rocky districts had less fever than those bordering upon the boggy mountainous places. In the former the potatoes were, comparatively speaking, dry, and the other crops of a better quality, and the inhabitants less exposed to cold and heavy rains.

Ballinrobe and Castlebar were less pressed by fever than Hollymount and Kilmain. In Westport, Killala and Ballina, the epidemic was still more severely felt; these last stations are much exposed, and a vast quantity of rain falls at all seasons of the year.

3.—The appearance of the epidemic fever did not attract notice so early in the county of Mayo, as in those of Galway and Roscommon, with the exception of Galway and Ballina; there, fever cases were observed in September and October 1816. In the other towns of Mayo its appearance was considerably later; it appeared in Ballinrobe and Castlebar in June 1817; and in Westport and in Newport not until September and October 1817. Here it was observed, that fever sooner rose to its height, as to prevalence and mortality, than at those places where it broke out earlier; fever at Westport was at its height in December 1817; whereas in Ballinrobe and Castlebar its greatest prevalence was in March 1818; and in Killala and Ballina not until December 1818.

No accurate account could be obtained as to the time of the first appearance of the epidemic in Erris; fever, however, has prevailed there to a great extent in the scattered population in that mountainous district, and the mortality has been considerable.

4.—The lower orders throughout the whole county of Mayo had suffered great privations; they were deficient in the material comforts of food, clothing and fuel; the potatoes were wet and bad, the crops had been unproductive; they were much subjected to the influence of cold and rain, which falls in unusual quantities in that country, part of which is bounded by a high mountainous range, and part exposed to the sea. The poor were in a state of despondency from want of employment; and the

middling classes equally so, from the fall of lands and of the prices of stock.

Most of the towns in Mayo are negligently kept, dung-hills and other nuisances allowed in the streets, and the population rather condensed for the size of them; more attention is paid to Westport, which looks cleaner. Westport is however exposed to the western blast from the sea, and on every other side surrounded by a boggy mountainous range, which furnishes damp and attracts the rain; the situation therefore cannot be considered salubrious.

Killala is in a very dirty state, although the town is small and stands high, as well as exposed to the sea.

Ballina is a close thickly inhabited town; it was very negligently kept until the epidemic appeared; since that time more attention has been bestowed on it.

5.—The character of the fever has been the same throughout, and does not differ from that usually to be met with in Ireland. It has varied in symptoms with the season; in cold weather the lungs have been attacked; in warm weather the stomach and bowels; and at all seasons the head has been much engaged: latterly, the fever has been milder in its symptoms and of shorter duration. The change for the better first occurred in Westport, in April 1818; in Castlebar, in June 1818; in Ballina, in September 1818; and in Killala, December 1818.

In Ballinrobe, Cong, Hollymount and Kilmain, the cases have been milder since summer 1818.

6.—Considerable exertions were made to arrest the progress of the epidemic in almost every town in Mayo,

both by the medical practitioners and the neighbouring gentry; and it may be observed, that in those towns and districts where most exertions were made, there the fever soonest subsided. This is fully exemplified by Westport and Castlebar, in which town there are fever hospitals; accordingly there the fever soonest subsided. Although fever appeared late in Westport, it very soon arrived at its acme: its sudden subsidence may be fairly attributed to the salutary influence of an excellent fever hospital, and a good system of cleansing, ventilating, and purifying the houses, giving employment to the poor, and supplying them with food. Westport appears much indebted to the liberality of its resident landlord, who contributed largely to the support of a fever hospital, which was assisted also by a liberal grant from Government, of £200.

In addition to opening a fever hospital at Castlebar, contributions in money were also made by the gentry residing about the town; the streets were swept, dunghills removed, bread, porter, oatmeal and sugar were distributed to the sick poor; the decisive influence of these measures in putting down the fever, were very soon evinced in Castlebar and its vicinity.

The poor were humanely attended at their homes, and huts built for them where the sick were too much crowded, in Hollymount, Kilmain, and Ballinrobe. Subscriptions were raised about Hollymount for supplying the poor with food: this measure, by keeping them at their homes, prevented the fever from spreading as much as it otherwise might have done. Independent of the efforts of the medical men, much was done by the protestant clergy. They distributed straw and medicines in many parts of their parishes, with the best effects.

In Killala there is a dispensary; patients were attended at their homes from this institution. The bishop also

employs a medical man for his own tenantry; a considerable number were also attended by him. The bishop distributed money and food among his own tenantry, and gave them employment. The epidemic was much checked by these measures; but as there was but little co-operation in the neighbouring gentry, and as the town is kept in an offensive filthy state, fever still lingers in Killala, where it appeared at least as early as any in other town in Conaught.

In Ballina, although there was neither a fever hospital or a dispensary, considerable efforts were made. Ventilation, whitewashing, and fumigations were practised, nuisances removed, the streets and lanes regularly swept, large contributions in money were collected, straw distributed to the poor, soup, meal, and other food supplied; the sick were attended at their homes, and medicines dispensed to them.

Under these judicious and humane measures, the fever declined in autumn 1818, and has not recurred in any formidable degree since.

7.—Relapses in fever have been frequent, especially of late, since the short fever has become the prevailing form of the epidemic; this has been observed at Killala, and seems to promise a speedy extinction to the fever there.

8.—Other diseases rarely followed the fever, in those who were previously of a sound constitution. Dropsy, in a few instances, was observed in old subjects who had been intemperate; and some of the younger were threatened with consumption.

The contagious character of the epidemic was evinced, by its extending itself through every family amongst the lower orders, when one became affected; amongst the better classes this did not occur; ventilation appeared to di-

minish the power of the contagion, and separation into another chamber afforded perfect security in an airy house. An advantage attended placing the poor in huts, as this was in point of fact a mode of separation; and if their clothes were washed and ventilated, the convalescents did not disseminate the fever, under cautious management. Mendicants occasionally extended the contagion, but there were fewer of them in Mayo than in the line of the leading roads through Galway and Roscommon. In Ballinrobe no medical men had fever. In Westport and Newport, the apothecary of each place had it in a severe form. In Castlebar, the medical men escaped; the same fortunate exemption prevailed in Killala and Ballina. In the vicinity of all these places, the village nurses who attended the poor in their homes, and in some instances the strangers in their huts, invariably took fever at some period. No clergyman or priest died of fever in Mayo, though some of them were infected.

COUNTIES OF SLIGO AND LEITRIM.

1.—THE counties of Sligo and Leitrim have experienced the pressure of the epidemic, at least with as much severity as any of the other counties of the Connaught district; it has been more felt by the lower orders; the more comfortable classes have had it in a very reduced ratio. Happily at present, as an epidemic, fever may be said to be almost extinct; cases of it are, however, always to be met with in so populous a town as Sligo,

and the country villages are never altogether free from it.

The villages of Mohirow, Grange and Drumcliffe, suffered still more than the town of Sligo. Fever prevailed also extensively at Carrick-on-Shannon, and still more so at Mohill, but now fever cases are rare in Carrick and its vicinity: it still prevails in some of the villages in the county of Leitrim.

2.—The chief exemptions from fever, in addition to the better classes, were the gaols of Sligo and Carrick, which though unusually crowded, were kept free by separation, and attention to diet, ventilation and cleanliness. The Charter school of Sligo, and the infirmaries both of Sligo and Carrick, escaped fever; similar precautions having been taken.

3.—In Sligo and Leitrim the epidemic appeared early in the year 1817. In the town of Sligo it was general; it was not confined to the lower orders: many of the middling classes and of the higher took the fever; and amongst those latter description the mortality was more considerable. In Carrick-on-Shannon the fever was equally pressing; and in the district of Mohill, its severity was still more felt than at Carrick.

The prevalence of fever in the county of Sligo, was greatest from September 1817 to March 1818; the mortality was also most considerable between those periods; since that time, however, it has gradually declined.

In Leitrim, fever was most prevalent from June to the latter end of October 1817; it abated in March 1818, but was again renewed in July, and continued until Christmas, as may be seen by the monthly returns.

4.—The same remarks are applicable to the lower orders in Sligo and Leitrim, as to the other counties of the Conaught district. Despondency, want of employment, want of food, of fuel and of clothing, reduced their moral and physical powers so low, that they became ready subjects for fever on the application of the slightest occasional causes. The degree of exposure to wet and cold, to which the Irish are well accustomed, and which seldom proves injurious to them under ordinary circumstances, scarcely ever failed in these years of distress to bring on shivering, which was invariably succeeded by fever. Towards the beginning of the Winter 1818, the epidemic began to decline, and it has been decreasing ever since.

5.—The fever assumed the same characters in these northern counties of Conaught, as it had in the others. It became milder within the last six months, and less fatal latterly. It was called *The short Fever*: for in the early periods of the epidemic, the disease ran out for two or three weeks; whereas from five to nine days was often the utmost extent of this new form, with this peculiarity, that relapses were often the consequence.

6.—Admirable dispositions were made in Sligo, to meet the severe pressure of the epidemic, both by the physicians and the inhabitants of the town. When the cases became too numerous for the physicians to attend at their homes, four district medical inspectors were appointed in Spring 1817. The physicians, assisted by those active medical officers, were enabled to extend their aid not only to the town, but to the neighbouring villages. A fever hospital was opened in September 1817, which experience has proved to be fully equal to provide for the poor in and about Sligo. £.400 was granted by Government, and subscriptions to the amount of

£.1,500 were collected; the streets and lanes were swept, nuisances removed, the houses ventilated and whitewashed; in addition to this, sustenance was distributed to those who required it. The result of these combined measures was, as might have been expected, a considerable diminution of fever; and under a perseverance in the same well-concerted measures, it has continued to decrease until the present time, when it may be considered nearly extinct as an epidemic.

In the county of Leitrim, little was done to arrest the progress of the epidemic, except those measures which emanated from the medical practitioners. There is no fever hospital in Carrick, or in the county of Leitrim; the poor, however, had medicine distributed to them from the county infirmary, and were attended at their homes as far as the other avocations of the medical attendant of the county infirmary would permit. He attended also to another district seven miles distant from Carrick; and had notices put up in the town, recommending the most effectual steps to be taken for the suppression of the epidemic: under his direction, also, cabins were cleansed, whitewashed and ventilated.

There is no magistrate in the town, or within two miles of Carrick; no further means, in addition to those already mentioned were taken, except that a subscription was entered into to supply the indigent with both broth and meal during the Summer, and until the harvest should be collected.

In the district of Mohill, where the fever pressed with unusual severity, much was done by the active operation of a dispensary, which afforded effectual aid to a very considerable number of fever patients. This institution was assisted by a grant of £.70 from Government, and

by subscriptions from the resident gentlemen in the country. During seven months, 1,957 patients got relief from this establishment; and though the dispensary is now closed for want of funds, yet it is pleasing to observe that fever has nearly ceased in that quarter; which is in a great measure to be attributed to the exertions of that institution, to cleansing and whitewashing the cabins, and occasionally separating the sick, placing them in outhouses and in huts, and supplying them with the kind of nourishment adapted to their situation.

7.—Relapses were very frequent, both in the counties of Sligo and Leitrim, more especially within the last six months. According to the observation of the physicians at Sligo, a great majority of their patients, both among the lower orders as well as in the higher classes, relapsed since the *short fever* has become the prevailing form of the disease. They were unable to assign any particular cause for this change in the period and form of the epidemic.

8.—No particular diseases were observed to follow as consequences to the epidemical fever. In many instances it was surprising to see how soon and how completely the health of the sufferers was re-established, especially if suitable nutriment had been afforded in their convalescence.

In some instances a protracted state of debility was the result; and in those who were predisposed to constitutional diseases, fever frequently proved the means of eliciting the predominant morbid affection.

9.—The contagious nature of the epidemic was fully evinced in the counties of Sligo and Leitrim; it invariably spread from one member of a family through the

whole circle, amongst the lower orders, where separation could not well be practised, until the fever hospital became established. One physician (Dr. Ferguson) died. One of the district inspectors likewise fell a victim to the epidemic; the three other inspectors had the fever in a severe form, and scarcely any of the apothecaries escaped being infected by the disease.

In Carrick, the epidemic was equally disposed to spread; and in Mohill and its vicinity, fever was perhaps more general than in any part of the Conaught district. Here, however, the beneficial efforts of a dispensary, aided by a liberal grant from Government of £.70, and the exertions of the gentry of the country, were observable; insomuch that the disease began to decline in Winter 1818, and is now nearly extinct as an epidemic. Had not a salutary check been given to the progress of the disease in these two counties, by the effective institutions already mentioned, it is probable that fever would have extended itself more generally, and have presented obstacles to its removal, which might have proved quite insuperable.

RECAPITULATION.

FROM the preceding details, it appears that Fever is **always to be met with** in the western district of Ireland, in the towns, in the villages, and amongst the scattered population throughout the country; but no remarkable **increase of fever cases** attracted notice until the latter end

of the year 1816, or the beginning of 1817: fever then appeared nearly at the same time, at every distant point of the western district. No doubt, fever was on the increase before the period assigned in several places; but it is curious to observe how closely the reports from every station agree as to the time of the commencement of the epidemic. From the period it attracted attention, its progress continued for about two years; and there has been very little abatement of it until within a few months antecedent to the time this inspection was made. Happily, throughout the whole province, fever is now considerably on the decline; the cases are less numerous, the disease itself is milder in its symptoms, and shorter in its duration; indeed, in a great majority of the towns and villages in Conaught, as well as in the county of Clare, there is not more than the ordinary proportion of fever cases to be met with, so that as an epidemic, the disease may be said to be at an end throughout the whole of the western district.

There were no places in Conaught, which derived an exemption from fever, from their local situation. Almost the whole of Conaught is of a dry limestone formation, the ground uneven, broken by hills and valleys, well watered, and interspersed with lakes; under ordinary circumstances the country is wholesome, and no particular diseases are endemic. It should be observed, that bog forms no inconsiderable portion of the district, and there is a large share of mountain, partly bog and partly rock: there are no noxious exhalations from the latter, either in summer or winter; and the inhabitants are equally healthy in their vicinity as in other districts, excepting those instances where their houses are built in too damp situations. In the bogs and mountains the potatoes were worse in 1816 and 1817, than in the dryer soils, and the people were more exposed in getting in their late harvest;

this circumstance appeared to affect the health of the inhabitants in no inconsiderable degree.

The classes of people who were, comparatively speaking, exempt from fever, were those who had abundance of good food, who were well supplied with clothing and fuel, who were less exposed to the inclemency of the seasons; and whose minds were at ease, or at least above the feelings of despondency.

The upper classes were therefore more spared; here and there, the father of a family, solicitous to provide for his children, and disappointed in his speculations, if he became affected with fever, rarely recovered. Fever, under circumstances of despair and distress of mind, was rarely surmounted amongst the better classes. The military, children in charter schools, the inmates of gaols, almost all escaped. Cleanliness, ventilation, attention to diet, and an early separation of the sick, procured immunity to all those classes from the extension of fever.

The epidemic, as already stated, commenced early in 1817; its greatest mortality was in the summer of the same year. Some slight variation occurred as to the precise epoch of the greatest increase of fever cases, and mortality in different places; but the time of its being first observed in opposite quarters of the province, affords a curious and interesting proof, that the disease was not imported from without. Its appearance in Sligo, for instance, at the northern, and Ennis at the southern extremity, in Galway at the western, and Athlone at the eastern extreme points of the district, was nearly simultaneous; the same may be said of all the intermediate towns and stations, as appears more clearly in the foregoing detailed account. There is a very slight variation from this statement, with respect to Galway, where the

epidemic was said to appear half a year sooner ; but fever is always endemic in Galway, and the town itself is peculiarly favourable to the developement and propagation of that disease. The epidemic also attracted notice sooner in Killala and Ballina, than in most other towns in Conaught. These are exposed situations, and an unusual quantity of rain falls in both of them ; in these places also, some of the causes which were favourable to the production of disease, were strikingly observable. The epidemic probably was in existence earlier than has been stated, in other places, but it was not observed until it excited alarm by the deaths of some of the better classes ; at all events, the exception of three towns does not invalidate the general conclusion as to the time of its appearance, when no precise day or even month can be assigned for its commencement. There appears nothing like a gradual extension of contagion from one station to another, at successive points of time ; which would have been the case had the disease been imported, and carried from place to place in the way the Plague is traced in the southern and eastern countries on the Continent.

Fever then, in many instances, would appear to have been produced independent of contagion ; in other words that fever may have a spontaneous origin. That in those who had their constitutions debilitated by want of food, want of fuel, want of clothing, and were under the influence of the depressing passions, which might, in the opinion of many, be considered to constitute the predisposition, such persons readily, if subjected to fatigue, or exposed to wet or cold, became affected with fever. Within the last few years many, after a severe wetting, conceived they had only caught cold, or, perhaps, symptoms of inflammation of the lungs were most obvious. Such cases however, after a few days, could not be distinguished from the ordinary form of the epidemic fever ; and though such

patients had clearly contracted their diseases independent of contagion, yet they were found capable of communicating a similar disease to others. This observation is consonant to the experience of most of the intelligent practitioners in the different principal towns, who conceived that the fever had two distinct sources; one *spontaneous*, arising from the condition of the poor, and the peculiar circumstances of the seasons; the other from contagion: that in both instances the disease was equally communicable from one person to another.

The lower orders were almost the only sufferers from fever, in the first instance; they were precisely under those circumstances which rendered them highly pre-disposed to disease; so that it only required that any of the usual exciting or occasional causes of fever should be applied, to ensure a full developement of the disease. They were feeble for want of sufficient sustenance to enable them to work; they often wanted food, they searched the fields for roots and herbs; the potatoes were bad and unwholesome; they were chilled for want of comfortable clothing or fuel; they were dispirited and desponding for want of employment. All these circumstances exhausted their constitution, and destroyed the proper and harmonious balance of the circulation, which should ensure health; it only required that they should undergo some slight exertion, or be exposed to cold, and fever inevitably followed such exertion or exposure. Accordingly the labourers were observed at their work, to droop and become faint, to fall into shivering and profuse sweats, which mostly ended in fever. The wet summers both of 1816 and 1817, thus completed the constitutional injuries in this class of the community.

The general despondency was much heightened in the counties of Roscommon and Galway, by the failure of a

country bank; a general bankruptcy among the middling shopkeepers, and insolvency amongst the lower orders, was the result of this. The better classes were thus disabled from giving employment to the poor; and the poor, unable to pay their rents, quitted their tenures, or were ejected from them, and assembled in wandering hordes. Fever broke out amongst them from the privations they suffered, and from their necessary exposure to wet and cold; and they disseminated it wherever they went. Many of these wandering tribes were hospitably entertained with food and shelter, by the proprietors of the land; and in many instances fever was thus communicated to the better classes; and wherever it did occur, the mortality was much higher than with the poor, amongst whom the fever was much milder.

The question of the greatest moment is, however, a consideration of the means the most appropriate to meet and arrest the visitation of an epidemic, such as that already described. In many of the towns, from the preceding detail, it is evident that much was done in mitigating its severity, in providing accommodation, medicines, food and other comforts for the sufferers; in practising whitewashing, ventilation and separation, by removing the poor to huts, barns and hospitals. Fever certainly ceased soonest to press on those stations where these means were best put in practice; and had there been no other source of fever but that of extension of contagion from one individual to another, or from infected clothes and furniture, the curative and preventive means would have sooner shown their efficiency in putting down the epidemic. But notwithstanding the active operation of all these well-concerted measures, in diminishing the quantity of contagion and reducing the numbers of the sick, fever was every day still showing itself; fresh cases occurred in detached situations, from causes over

which human means could have no direct or immediate control. In fact, it was not until the stamina and constitutions of the lower classes became improved and recruited by the plentiful harvest of 1818, that these spontaneously-produced fevers ceased to show themselves. The means resorted to and put in practice, were probably the best that the exigency of circumstances permitted; and they were successful, so far as it was reasonable to expect; and had they not been resorted to, the country would have been in a state very little short of plague.

It may be observed, however, that in some towns, notwithstanding the disinterested activity of the physicians, and the ready assistance afforded by Government wherever it was necessary, little was done by the inhabitants or neighbouring residents of the country. Collections of money were certainly made, whenever the evil was of sufficient magnitude to threaten their own establishments; but again, when it was less pressing, the subscriptions fell off, and there was a remission of that energy and perseverance from which alone any thing decisive could be expected.

On account of those negligent habits, fever is always to be found in some towns; by proper municipal regulations, aided by medical suggestions, this evil might be very much lessened, if not altogether done away. The foregoing detail gives an instructive example of the utility of an active committee who meet weekly, who not only regulate the concerns of the Fever Hospital, but superintend the cleansing and ventilating streets and houses; the result of which is nearly a total cessation of fever in a close town with a considerable population.—(*Vide Report of Ennis.*)

Should an epidemic fever again unhappily visit this

country, a fever hospital would be required in every principal town, and a dispensary in the smaller ones. Each physician might be allowed one or more intelligent men, such as hospital serjeants, who could bleed, dress blisters, and assist them in dispensing medicines, and keeping the registers.

Under similar circumstances, the county hospitals, which now only accommodate a few chronic patients, of such a description that the greater number of them cannot receive much benefit from medical treatment, might either, in whole or in part, be converted into fever hospitals until the epidemic had subsided. In the country villages, barns and huts, of which, experience has already shown the utility, and in some instances, tents might be made the receptacles for the sick, so as to practice separation as soon as possible when fever gets into a family.

Boards of health and managing committees have invariably rendered important services, wherever they have been established; the public appear to give their subscriptions with more cheerfulness, where committees have been formed. The lower orders also submit more willingly to measures for cleansing and ventilating their dwellings, and to the removal of their sick to hospitals, under the guidance and direction of their landlords and protectors, than under the compulsory measures of municipal regulation.

The clergy of both persuasions have evinced their zeal and services in the cause of suffering humanity, during the prevalence of the epidemic: the Protestant clergy, as members of committees and as directors of dispensaries, independent of their charitable donations of food, straw and other necessities: the Catholic clergy have been

equally zealous in their personal attendance on the sick, and in assisting the committees and medical attendants, in the distribution of money, food and medicines, through the villages.

The services performed by the physicians (which have been for the most part gratuitous) and of the other medical attendants, cannot well be estimated; as members of boards and committees, their suggestions have been of the utmost benefit; and that their exertions have been attended with imminent personal hazard, has been evinced by the numbers who have caught the disease, and by those who have fallen victims to their professional devotion.

In case of a return of the present epidemic, or of a visitation of a similar nature at a future period, much might be expected from the local knowledge and active habits of these classes of persons.

It is unnecessary to recapitulate facts which go to prove the contagious nature of the late epidemic; its disposition to spread has been universally admitted, and evinced by many circumstances. But it is equally true, that fever in many instances has shown itself from causes independent of contagion, although it has ultimately become capable of being disseminated like that which has evidently taken its origin from an infectious source; but this point has been already sufficiently insisted on in a preceding part of this report.

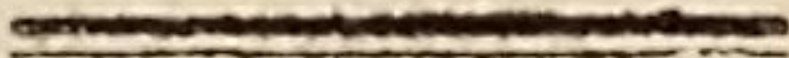
After what has been said, it requires no minute investigation to assign the principal causes of the late epidemical visitation; they are to be found in the previous state or condition of the class of people who suffered most from the disease. The circumstances under which they were

placed, have been already more than once enumerated. Whenever it shall please Providence, therefore, to afflict a populous country with scarcity of provisions for two successive years; whilst there exist also additional causes to depress the mind and occasion despondency; and moreover, when cold, wet and ungenial seasons are super-added to other causes of distress, an unusual number of fever cases will be the result in those places, where the population is most dense, and where the habits of the people are most negligent.

JOHN CRAMPTON, M. D.

Galway Fever Hospitsl.

From 29th November 1817, to 11th August 1818 :—				
Discharged cured	-	-	-	300
Died	-	-	-	9
Total admissions				<u>309</u>



Ballinasloe Dispensary.

About 300 families were attended ; often 30 houses at the same time.



Monivae Dispensary ;—for three years.
Fever cases.

		1816 :		1817 :		1818 :
Cured	-	44	-	245	-	126
Died	-	<u>5</u>	-	<u>26</u>	-	<u>11</u>
Total		47	-	271	-	<u>137</u>

Tuam Dispensary:

From 1st of June 1817, to 28th February 1819.

Months.	Males.	Fe- males	Total.	
1817. June	6	4	10	} 5 Deaths ; 3 Men ; 2 women.
July	14	12	26	
August	16	16	32	
September	16	12	28	
October	10	14	24	
November	15	17	32	
December	8	7	15	
1818. January	7	13	20	} 2 Deaths ; 1 Man, 1 woman.
February	4	3	7	
March	8	2	10	
April	5	2	7	
May	5	3	8	
June	2	1	3	
July	13	11	24	
August	9	5	14	
September	2	1	3	
October	8	5	13	
November	2	5	7	
December	9	1	10	
1819. January	4	4	8	}
February	2	1	3	
21 Months	165	139	304	

Loughrea.

No register kept ; no hospital ; no dispensary : population of Loughrea about 5,000 ; no computation of fever cases made ; 50 severe cases in the Town Close in summer 1818, at one time.

Gort Dispensary.

About 400 poor attended; deaths 50; no accurate register kept;
many not reported until moribund.

Ennis Fever Hospital.

From 16th December 1817 to 16th March 1818.

1st Quarter	{ Discharged cured				-	-	114	118
	{ Died				-	-	4	

From 16th March to 16th June 1818:

2d Quarter	{ Discharged cured				-	-	92	98
	{ Died				-	-	6	

From 16th June to 16th September 1818:

3d Quarter	{ Discharged cured				-	-	178	191
	{ Died				-	-	13	

From 16th September to 16th December 1818:

4th Quarter	{ Discharged cured				-	-	103	112
	{ Died				-	-	9	

From 16th December 1818 to 23d February 1819:

{	Discharged cured				-	-	17	26
	Died				-	-	1	
	In Hospital				-	-	8	

Total admissions - - - 545

Total deaths - - - 35

Athlone Dispensary:

Numbers attended at their homes in Athlone and its vicinity, and supplied with medicine from the dispensary.

From 1st July 1817 to 31st August	-	228
From 31st August to 18th September 1818	-	27
From 18th September to 12th March 1819	-	43
		298

Boyle Dispensary:

September 1st, 1817, under treatment	-	102
From 1st September 1817 to 31st August 1818	-	780
Cured	-	815
Died	-	67
		382
Remaining on the books 31st August 1818	-	9

Strokestown:

No fever hospital; no dispensary.

Numbers attended above	-	300
------------------------	---	-----

Roscommon:

No fever hospital; no dispensary; no returns.

Mortality in the county of Roscommon, estimated 1 in 30.

Ballinrobe, about	-	170
Hollymount, —	-	200
Kilmaine, —	-	80

were treated for fever; no hospital; no dispensary.

Fever Hospital, Westport.

Date.	Remain- ing from last month.	Admit- ted this month.	Total.	Of the preceding were cured.	Died.	Remain in Hospital.	Total.
From 12th December 1817, to 12th March 1818 - -		66	66	56	2	8	66
From 12th March to 12th June 1818 - -	8	55	63	55	2	6	63
From 12th June to 12th Sep- tember 1818 - -	6	52	58	51	1	6	58
From 12th September to 12th December 1818 - -	6	38	44	37	1	6	44
From 12th December 1818 to 1st March 1819 - -	6	20	26	22	1	3	26
Total - -		231		221	7		

Westport Extern Patients.

Date.	Remain- ing from last month.	No. of cases.	Total.	Of the pre- ceding were cured.	Died.	Remaining under care.	Total.
From 12th December 1817 to 12th June 1818 - -		260	260	220	3	37	260
From 12th June 1818 to De- cember 1818 - -	37	156	193	144	3	46	193
From 12th December 1818 to 1st March 1819 - -	46	10	56	44	0	12	56
Total - -		426		408	6		

Castlebar Fever Hospital :

Discharged cured	-	-	-	38
Died	-	-	-	3
In hospital	-	-	-	13
Received since the commencement	-			54

Killala Dispensary :

Number attended during two years	-	-	306
Deaths	-	-	3
Number attended by a gentleman not belonging to the dispensary	-	-	300
Total	-		609

Ballina :

No hospital ; no dispensary ; no returns ; the medical attendants frequently visited from 50 to 100 in a day.

Sligo Fever Hospital :

From 25 September 1817 to 24 March 1818	{	Admitted	-	-	271
		Cured	-	223	
		Died	-	9	
	{	Remain in hospital	39	- -	271

From 25 March to 24 September 1818	{	Remain in hospital	39		
		Admitted	-	221	
					- - 260
		Cured	-	227	
		Died	-	4	
		{	Remain in hospital	29	- - 260

Sligo Fever Hospital:—continued.

From 25 September 1818 to 1 March 1819	Remain in hospital	29		
	Admitted	-	229	
				258
	Cured	-	215	
	Died	-	13	
	Remain in hospital	50	- -	258
Total admissions				- 789
Total deaths				- 26

Population of Sligo about 12,000.

Carrick-on-Shannon.—Population about 1,500.
Number attended in fever at their homes.

	No.	Died	Cured		No.	
1817: June -	7	1	6	1818:		
July -	14	-	14	March	5	Cases of per- sons being 2 or 3 miles distant } 256
August	25	2	23	April	4	
September	11	1	10	May	...	
October	17	1	16	June	10	
November	13	1	12	July	53	
December	9	-	9	August	39	
				September	14	
1818: January	12	-	12	October	53	
February	14	-	14	November	...	
				December	23	
Within the above				1819:		
period there oc-				January	11	
curred amongst	7	1	6	February	4	144
the military -				March	4	210
In the county gaol	15	1	14			Deaths 5. 180
	144	8	136	Total	180	256
Registered cases in fever applying						
for medicine within the same				210	Total of cases	790
period	-	-	-			
Besides in a parish, 7 miles distant	-				156 families.	

Mohill Dispensary.

Number treated for fever	-	-	-	1,957
from August 29, 1817,	Deaths	-	-	53
to March 29, 1816				

III.



A REPORT ON THE STATE OF FEVER IN THE PROVINCE OF ULSTER.



COUNTY OF DOWN.

IN this county the epidemic seems to have totally subsided ; a few cases of fever are to be met with in particular situations, such as will ever occur so long as the habits of the lower orders remain unchanged.

The late epidemic first appeared in this county about the month of October, one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, in the vicinity of Downpatrick, and, with the exception of the small town of Rosstrevor, became general in the spring and summer following.

The circumstances to which the inhabitants of Rosstrevor owe their exemption, appear to be as follows : the town is out of the common thoroughfare, situated in a

remarkably dry soil, with wide and airy streets, devoid of those miserable habitations where the lower orders of travellers and mendicants are lodged; who, it is acknowledged by every one, were the great importers of infection throughout the country in general. The town is much resorted to in summer by sea bathers and other visitors, who circulate a great deal of money among the inhabitants, who are thereby induced to keep their houses clean and in good order. Large contributions were made, during the scarcity in one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, by the neighbouring gentry, for the purpose of purchasing provisions, clothing, and fuel for the poor, which may be brought forward as an additional reason why they should have escaped an evil so prevalent in the surrounding country. Generally speaking, the epidemic appears to have been at its acmé, as to prevalence and malignity, from the month of July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, until the month of March one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, from which period it has gradually subsided.

Previous to its appearance, the poor laboured under the greatest privations, proceeding from want of employment, scarcity and bad quality of provisions, which naturally produced great despondency of mind. Such was the bad quality of the flour, that peasants were frequently known to go a distance of thirty miles to procure bran or pollard, to enable them to make it into bread.

The scarcity of fuel was also severely felt; in many instances the poor were obliged to eat their provisions raw; and for weeks together during the winter months, their clothes were hardly ever dry.

From the concurrent testimonies of medical men, it does not appear that the epidemic differed materially

from the ordinary fever of the country; nor did it vary much in character, except that during the latter periods of its prevalence, the symptoms became milder, more tractable, and of shorter duration.

No class of society was wholly exempt from its attacks; with the poor it was more general, but among the higher orders more fatal. The mortality among the former seldom exceeding one in twenty, while among the latter it amounted to one in five.

On the other hand, wherever it appeared in a poor man's house, scarcely an individual of the family escaped the infection; not having it in their power, unless in the vicinity of an hospital, to separate the person infected from those in health, nor to adopt the necessary measures of cleansing and ventilation. Among the poor, relapses were very frequent, particularly so in the latter periods of the existence of the epidemic, and instances of recurrence of the disease were often observed: some individuals had it three times. Among the better class, relapse was not so frequent; and the attack of a second individual in a family was hardly ever known.

Those who have recovered from it do not appear to have suffered any constitutional injury; their convalescence, generally speaking, was complete.

The means adopted throughout the county to prevent the spread of the disease, were nearly the same, and their success proportionate to the energy with which they were carried into effect. In the mountainous districts, where the poor received no assistance or medical advice, the mortality is reported to have been excessive; and in

such towns as did not establish a fever hospital or board of health, scarcely a house escaped the contagion, while in others not more than one person in four was visited by the disease. Early separation of the infected from those in health; cleansing, whitewashing, and ventilating the apartments, and endeavouring, as far as possible, to exclude mendicants, were the usual means resorted to. But it is much to be regretted, that to procure the co-operation of the poor, was a matter of almost insuperable difficulty. In some instances, the people sent to cleanse their dwellings were refused admission and maltreated; and the sick, though convinced of the contagious nature of the disease, were, in the commencement of the epidemic, very unwilling to go into hospital. This prejudice was almost totally overcome by the pressure of the evil; and the poor now universally acknowledge the benefits conferred on them by such establishments.

In the neighbourhood of Briansford, a family in comfortable circumstances, who took every precaution to avoid infection, are firmly persuaded that the fever was introduced among them by a web of linen, which was woven for them by a family, some of whom laboured under fever. What adds strong presumptive proof to their opinion is, that the two individuals who were employed in preparing the web for the bleach-green, were the first who were affected, and took ill on the same day.

The fever-hospital accommodation for this county did not exceed sixty beds.

COUNTY OF ANTRIM.

IN this county the epidemic did not commence at so early a period as in the county of Down; the first cases were observed about July one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, in the vicinity of Belfast and Lisburn; many places which subsequently suffered severely, were not visited by it until September or October following.

The only district which escaped the disease, was the island of Raghlin; the proprietor of which took the greatest pains to prevent the contagion being imported from the main land, by cutting off all communication as far as possible, and by an accurate examination of those who landed on the island.

In the year one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, a severe fever appeared in that island, which there is every reason to suppose, was imported by some of the inhabitants who went to Scotland to see one of their relations who died of fever; they brought his clothes home, and shortly after the fever made its appearance and spread through two or three neighbouring families. From this circumstance they were particularly alive to the danger of infection, and their insular situation enabled them to avoid it.

The epidemic has almost totally declined in this county. In the suburbs of the town of Belfast, and in the mountainous or marshy districts where it raged with the greatest violence, a few cases are still to be met with, but they are not malignant, and are declining in number every day. A circumstance appears worthy of remark, that the better class of people in this county suffered,

comparatively speaking, little or nothing from fever; the number affected, and the comparative mortality, were not by any means so great as in the neighbouring counties: this many of the inhabitants are inclined to attribute to the prompt and extensive hospital accommodation afforded to the poor in fever. The hospitals of Belfast, Lisburn, and Randalstown, contained nearly three hundred patients.

It was remarked to me, that a district of four townlands in the vicinity of Randalstown, the inhabitants of which were noted for their industry, cleanliness, and comfort, exceeding what is ordinarily to be met with in Ireland, escaped the epidemic until a late period, when it appeared after they had inadvertently given lodging to some mendicants.

In some houses, the inhabitants of which were remarkable for their poverty, the disease seems to have taken such deep root, that for nearly two years they were never entirely free from it.

In every other respect, the circumstances of this county so accurately coincide with those already mentioned in the Report of the county of Down, that I think it unnecessary to repeat them.

COUNTY OF ARMAGH.

THERE is no epidemic here at present, (February 1819) and few cases of fever are to be met with.

About the month of June 1817, it was first observed, that the epidemic had taken root in the towns of Armagh and Lurgan, and was most prevalent and fatal from that period until the following Spring.

In this county the only circumstance I can point out, differing from what has been already stated, is, the extraordinary prevalence and mortality of the disease among the better class of society in the town of Armagh. To account for this is a matter of great difficulty; I shall therefore merely state a few facts, and leave it to others to decide how far they may have influenced the disease. In the winter of 1816 and 17, when the poor were suffering under misery and privations of every description, owing to the scarcity and bad quality of provisions and fuel, soup shops were established for their relief, with the most humane and benevolent intentions. These collected an immense crowd of mendicants, and poor of all descriptions, into the town, who horded together in miserable lodging houses, lying on the floor on straw; and, in many instances, taking up their quarters in the market-house, or any place where they could procure shelter.

No board of health was formed; and the fever hospital which they attempted to establish, was on so very limited a scale, and open for so short a period, that wherever fever appeared, having no means of removing the infected from those in health, it uniformly spread with the most fatal rapidity.

The town is thickly inhabited, and the houses of the lower orders are very numerous.

I did not hear of any district in this county which escaped the disease. A gentleman of fortune and high

respectability in this county, is supposed to have contracted the fever from a great coat, which he borrowed from a person in whose family fever existed.

The fever hospital was capable of receiving 40 patients, 20 of whom were lodged in temporary sheds, and it was open only 5 months; during which period one hundred and sixty-three patients were admitted, eleven of whom died.

In every other respect, as to the nature of the disease, and the circumstances of the poor, I was unable to discover any variation from what has been already stated.

COUNTY OF MONAGHAN.

THE epidemic has declined, and very few cases of fever are to be met with at present.

About May 1817, an increase of fever cases was first observed to such a degree as to excite alarm throughout the county. In the preceding December, several cases of fever occurred in the gaol of Monaghan; and it is the opinion of some of the medical men, that from that source it took its origin.

How far the facts will bear them out in this opinion, I am not prepared to say; I believe there is no doubt that the fever which prevailed at that time in the gaol, was conveyed to one or two families in the neighbourhood,

who had some intercourse with its inmates; but it does not appear to have assumed the character of an epidemic, until the period before mentioned: nor did its symptoms differ materially from the fevers of the adjoining counties.

Its greatest prevalence and mortality were during the months of July, August, and September; in October it manifestly declined. No district or class of society were exempt from it. Among the lower orders scarcely a house escaped; and where the infected were not speedily removed, it spread rapidly through the family.

Among the better class, hardly any instance occurred of a second person in a house taking the disease; nor was the mortality among them remarkable.

The fever hospital in the vicinity of the town of Monaghan contained fifty beds; but so anxious were the inhabitants to separate the infected from those in health, that, when the pressure was great, they put two patients into each bed; and during the fourteen months it was open, 1,037 persons were admitted, of whom 51 died.

COUNTY OF TYRONE.

THE epidemic has completely ceased in this county.

In the month of July 1817, fever appeared universally, and was most prevalent and malignant in the following winter months.

In the neighbourhood of Strabane, it appears from very accurate returns, that nearly one-fourth of the inhabitants were affected with the disease, of whom somewhat more than the ordinary average died. In the mountainous districts, particularly in the vicinity of Pome-roy, the mortality is reported to have been excessive.

I am inclined to attribute the great prevalence of the disease in this county to the large portion of mountainous district it contains; the inhabitants of which, in many instances, as soon as they became distressed, quitted their homes, crowded into the towns, and brought filth and infection along with them.

The hospitals of Strabane, Cookstown, and Dungannon, contained 100 beds; a number by no means adequate to the population. In other respects, I know of no diversity from what has been already mentioned.

COUNTY OF DERRY.

FEVER not epidemic here at present; nor has it ever prevailed so extensively as in the counties before mentioned, with the exception of the towns of Newtownlimavady and Londonderry.

It commenced in Londonderry, about the month of April 1817, but did not spread through the rest of the county until July or August, and in some places not quite so soon.

In the town of Magherafelt great exertions were made to relieve the poor in the winter of 1816 and 1817; and a large sum of money was expended in procuring them the necessaries of life; and here, in particular, the epidemic never raged to any great extent.

In Newtownlimavady, a soup shop was established, which collected an immense crowd of poor in the town. In Londonderry, the fever prevailed principally in the suburbs, which are extensive, and in a low damp situation.

Temporary booths were erected in the vicinity of the town; and during the prevalence of the epidemic fever, six hundred and thirty-six fever patients were admitted, thirty-five of whom died.

COUNTIES OF DONEGAL, FERMANAGH, AND CAVAN.

IN these three counties, from the best information I could procure, the fever had not been nearly so prevalent as in other parts of the province. It appeared about the commencement of the summer of one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, but neither the number affected, nor the mortality, were so great as in the other districts. This may partly be ascribed to these counties not being so much in the thoroughfare of the great tide of labourers travelling towards Scotland and England in the summer months, by whose means, there is reason to think,

the contagion was spread in the towns to a great degree. Their fever establishments, consequently, were few, and the numbers received very limited. In the towns of Cavan and Enniskillen small hospitals were opened, but on a limited scale; and it was not found necessary to enlarge them. In the county of Donegal, I did not hear of any fever hospitals whatever.

In the mountainous districts, as before remarked, the cases were more numerous, particularly in that part of Donegal called Innishowen. At present there is as little fever as ever was known throughout this district of country.

From the foregoing statement it appears, that the province of Ulster was affected very generally with fever, from the spring of one thousand eight hundred and seventeen, till the summer of one thousand eight hundred and eighteen. From that period it has gradually declined; and at present it may fairly be stated as reduced to its ordinary standard, and no longer to exist as an epidemic.

In its nature it does not appear to have differed materially from the usual fever of the country, and perhaps may be considered as a mere extension of it; to which the following circumstances highly contributed:

The unusual quantity of rain which fell in the Autumn of one thousand eight hundred and sixteen, rendered provisions deficient in quantity and quality. It also

deprived the poor of their usual supply of fuel, which they were unable to remove from the bogs where it was cut. These privations, combined with want of employment, produced a great depression of spirits, under which they became highly susceptible of receiving the contagion of fever. There is great reason to apprehend that this predisposition to fever, will exist more or less, till the habits and manners of living of the lower orders be radically changed.

As a proof of the foregoing statement it may be adduced, that the poor were uniformly the greatest sufferers; and fever seemed to rage among them, in a degree proportionate to the privations they had endured.

In the mountainous districts, with no resident gentry, and the inhabitants left to their own resources, and where the crops actually rotted in the fields, the prevalence and mortality of the disease appear to have been very great; whereas the better classes, the military, and the public institutions, comparatively speaking, suffered little or nothing.

That the disease was highly contagious, wherever ventilation and cleanliness were not resorted to, appears from the universal spread of it among the families of the poor; and from the number of clergy, medical, and other attendants on the sick, who were affected by it.

That it was possible to convey it by means of clothes, bedding, &c. is not doubted by the most competent judges I had occasion to meet; and there are but few who are not prepared to relate numerous and well authenticated instances to support their opinion.

The extreme difficulty of eradicating the disease from

the dwellings of the poor, and the manner in which it seems to have been disseminated over the country by the lower order of travellers, and mendicants, appear to me conclusive on this point.

With respect to preventive measures, little can be added to those which have been resorted to already, with so much benefit to the country at large, and so much credit to those whose wisdom and liberality contributed eminently to carry them into effect; and I am happy to add, these contributions were universally acknowledged with gratitude.

It is to be hoped, that the present system of education, carried on so generally through the country, will, in time, produce such a reformation in the habits of the people as will ultimately eradicate the evil.

After a year of scarcity, an endeavour, as far as practicable, to supply the poor with employment, food and medical assistance, so as to prevent the spread of fever among them, seems highly requisite. Wherever these measures were adopted with energy and activity, the result was highly favourable; but I should recommend great caution to be observed in the mode of putting them into effect, as it appears the establishment of soup shops in towns was frequently attended with injurious consequences. It is obvious, therefore, that in affording assistance, every measure, tending to collect the poor in crowds, should be avoided as far as possible.

In many instances the boards of health found great difficulty in procuring the co-operation of the poor; therefore some sort of medical police might be attached to them, whose duty it should be, to enforce the necessary measures of cleansing, ventilation, and removal of nuisances.

Where it is found necessary to establish a temporary fever hospital, a limitation of the medical attendace to one or two persons, excites jealousies and ill-will ; it would, therefore, be preferable to give each respectable practitioner a share in the public duty ; from which I have no doubt great benefit would ensue to such institutions, and to the public in general. And as, in some instances, the first appearance of the epidemic has been observed in gaols, such establishments should be provided with an appropriate apartment, to which contagious or doubtful cases should be instantly removed.

It is to be regretted that the county hospitals, which in general are large and commodious, have no provision whatever for patients labouring under contagious diseases. Some change, either in the construction or management of such institutions, is very desirable.

I would earnestly recommend, that the Boards of Health should continue for some time longer to exert their useful measures of cleansing, ventilation, and removal of nuisances ; as it is not improbable that, during the heat of the ensuing summer, some increase of the number of fever cases may take place, so as once more to give rise to the idea, that an epidemic again prevails.

I have no doubt, that any measure suggested to the resident gentry, clergy, and medical men of the province, by Government, will be instantly attended to, as they have universally appeared most anxious to adopt every practicable means likely to mitigate the misery of the poor, or to benefit the country at large.

JAMES CLARKE, M. D.

Monthly Report from the Fever Hospital in Newry,
from its commencement, 12th July 1817, to the 18th
February 1819, inclusive.

Months.	Admitted.	Died of Fever.	Died of Diseases supervening fever.	Discharged cured.	Remained in hospital at the end of each month.	Total No. re- ceiving medical aid.
1817.						
From 12th to 31st July	61	—	—	35	26	61
August	99	5	2	80	38	125
September	116	1	—	103	50	154
October	106	4	3	105	44	156
November	102	4	—	101	41	146
December.	86	7	1	83	36	127
1818.						
January	75	2	6	67	42	111
February	64	2	2	66	36	106
March	76	3	—	76	33	112
April	72	2	1	68	34	105
May	94	1	1	86	40	128
June	91	—	—	90	41	131
July	150	2	—	136	53	191
August	101	2	2	95	55	154
September	49	2	—	67	35	104
October	46	1	—	63	27	91
November	42	—	—	44	25	69
December	34	2	1	37	19	59
1818.						
January	17	1	1	15	19	36
February 18th	13	—	2	18	12	32
Total	1,494	41	22	1,435	706	2,198

Received from Government the sum of	-	-	£350.
Do. the Grand Juries of the counties of Down and			
Armagh	-	-	175.
Do. by Subscriptions from the town of Newry			765.

Monthly Report of the Belfast Fever Hospital.

Months.	Admitted.	Died.	Dismissed.
1817 ;			
August	73	...	73
September	164	6	158
October	201	9	192
November	200	9	191
December	28	17	211
1818 :			
January	193	14	179
February	142	11	131
March	152	16	136
April	139	8	131
May	79	7	72
June	90	4	86
July	125	6	119
August	112	6	106
September	138	7	131
October	174	5	169
November	148	10	138
December	114	7	107
1819 ;			
January	65	4	61
Total	2,537	146	2,391

Note.—In this return, and some of the succeeding, all of which are accurate copies of those delivered to me from the several Fever Hospitals, there is an error in the dismissals; the statement of Admissions and Deaths I believe to be correct.

JAMES CLARKE.

A Monthly Report of the Fever Hospital in Lisburn;
from 7th of June 1816, to the 7th of February 1819.

	Ad- mitted.	Dis- missed.	Died.
From 7th June to 7th July	23	12	...
7th July to 7th August	24	10	...
7th Aug. to 7th Sept.	26	9	...
7th Sept. to 7th Oct.	26	13	...
7th Oct. to 7th Nov.	24	10	1
7th Nov. to 7th Dec.	16	7	2
7th Dec. to 7th Jan.	25	6	3
7th Jan. to 7th Feb.	24	8	2
7th Feb. to 7th March	29	9	3
7th March to 7th April	25	5	2
7th April to 7th May	25	7	2
7th May to 7th June	20	8	3
7th June to 7th July	16	10	...
7th July to 7th August	24	8	2
7th August to 7th Sept.	26	10	2
7th Sept. to 7th Oct.	27	8	2
7th Oct. to 7th Nov.	18	10	...
7th Nov. to 7th Dec.	29	9	...
7th Dec. to 7th Jan.	19	6	...
7th Jan. to 7th Feb.	23	8	...
	469	173	24

Monthly Report of the Randalstown Fever Hospital;
from 3d October 1817, to 14th December 1818,
inclusive.

Months.	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	To- tal.	Observations.
1817:					During this peri- od there were three hundred out patients, most of them labour- ing under Typhus.
October	45	13	1	14	
November	41	29	2	31	
December	31	33	4	37	
1818:					
January	12	11	2	13	
February	19	26	1	27	

(continued.)

Monthly Report of Randalstown Fever Hospital—
(continued.)

Months.	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.	To- tal.
1818 :				
March	15	18	...	18
April	5	16	...	16
May	42	9	...	9
June	25	20	2	22
July	24	41	1	42
August	22	23	1	24
September	10	12	1	15
October	8	12	1	15
November	4	14	...	14
December	—	6	...	6
	299	285	16	299

An accurate Monthly Return of the numbers admitted, discharged, and died in the Fever Hospital at Armagh; from its commencement, October 1st, A. D. 1817, to its closure in February 1818.

Months.	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged cured:	Died.	Remarks.
October	52	21	5	One of those who died this month was a child of three weeks old; another was sent in a dying state; and the other was asthmatic. One of them died of hæmorrhage from the intestines, another, a child of five years
November	50	37	7	
December	13	31	1	

Monthly Return of the Fever Hospital at Armagh,—
continued.

Months.	Ad- mitted.	Dis- charged cured.	Died.	Remarks.
1818.				
January	5	19	...	died of suffocation from im- mense glandular swellings in the neck; the majority of them had typhus gravior.
Fobruary	1	1	...	
Total	121	109	11	
Re-opened 9th Septem- ber 1818.				
September	42	16	...	The disease at this time was much milder; the majority having typhus mitior, but a good many cases of typhus gravior.
October	...	26	...	
	42	42	...	

Report of Monaghan Fever Hospital; commencing
August 16th, 1817.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital.
August -	159	89	3	67
September -	100	74	13	80
October -	98	100	5	73
November -	81	86	5	63
December -	78	68	2	71
January -	75	84	2	60
February -	80	59	1	80
March -	29	86	6	15
April -	9	12	2	52
May -	76	32	2	10
June -	54	32	4	30
July -	129	112	4	103
August -	60	104	2	57
September -	9	44	—	20
	1,037	964	51	—

Cookstown Fever Hospital.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital.
1817 :				
October -	46	27	3	16
November -	34	35	2	13
December -	24	22	1	14
1818 :				
January -	30	36	1	7
February -	18	15	1	9
March -	16	25	—	—
Total -	168	160	8	—

Kildress Fever Hospital.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	In Hospital.
1817 :				
October -	38	25	2	11
November -	50	42	3	16
December -	31	37	2	8
1818 :				
January -	29	24	8	13
February -	23	23	1	12
March -	19	31	—	—
Total -	190	182	16	—

From the 1st of September 1817, till the 31st of August 1818, there were 1,112 extern patients prescribed for in Typhus, of whom 28 died.

A Return of Fever Patients accommodated in the temporary Hospital Dungannon, between 1st July 1817, and 1st February 1818, when it closed.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.	Remarks.
July - - -	19	16	—	
August - -	24	19	2	
September -	38	51	2	
October - -	50	64	5	
November -	36	41	1	A Child not of Fever.
December -	25	21	1	A Child not of Fever.
January -	19	19	—	
Total -	211	211	9	

Note.—1,663 extern patients treated, supplied, &c. during the above period.
26 Beds.

A General Report of the Strabane Fever Hospital.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
1817:			
August -	90	37	—
September -	71	69	5
October -	80	96	5
November -	67	71	2
December -	62	50	2
1818:			
January -	44	46	1
February -	14	22	1
March -	12	19	1
April -	17	16	—
May -	7	12	1

(continued.)

A General Report of the Strabane Fever Hospital—
continued.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
June -	18	12	1
July -	24	20	1
August -	13	17	1
September -	16	18	—
October -	16	16	—
November -	8	12	—
December -	10	10	—
1819:.			
January -	8	11	1
February -	8	6	1
Total -	585	560	21

Remaining in Hospital, March 13, 1819. - 4

IV.

A REPORT ON THE STATE OF FEVER IN THE PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

WICKLOW AND WEXFORD.

1.—IT is a common opinion, that the fever which of late prevailed so extensively, originated in the winter of 1816, or in the succeeding spring; but my inquiries in the counties of Wicklow and Wexford have led to a different conclusion. In some parts of the county of Wicklow, as for example, in the neighbourhood of Stratford-on-Slaney, fever of the same general character with the present, was more frequent and fatal four years ago than it has been since; and it was universally admitted, by every one acquainted with the condition of the poor, that fever is never altogether absent; that at all times cases of it are to be found in every populous or extensive district.

In Wicklow the epidemic was abating; but in Wexford, where it had never prevailed to the same extent,

after an appearance of decline in November, it was again rather increasing about the time of my inspection.

2.—Fever had existed among the labouring poor in most parts of these two counties; there were some cases among the farmers; and here and there a case occurred in the upper ranks.

3.—In some parts of Wicklow I found it difficult to ascertain the period at which fever became epidemic; but it was pretty generally considered as commencing in the end of summer 1817, and it was at its height about the end of that year and beginning of 1818. In Wexford no considerable increase of fever took place before the summer or autumn of 1818, and the epidemic was most prevalent in that county in September and October; many had died in Wicklow during the greatest height of the epidemic, but in Wexford the mortality had been inconsiderable.

4.—In the county of Wicklow the disease had been most prevalent among the wretched peasantry in the mountains, in a tract commencing above Newtown-mount-Kennedy, and extending to Tullow in the county of Carlow. But it is observable, that at Rathdrum, which is near the centre of that range, I was credibly informed that the same disease was as prevalent in 1816, as at the time of my visit. In the county of Wexford it prevailed in the back lanes of the towns; for example, in the suburb of the town of Wexford called John's-street, where the houses are ruinous and extremely filthy; and where I understand some cases of fever are always to be met with.

Although the inhabitants of these places, at first sight, may appear differently circumstanced, there were

many points in which they resembled each other, when fever began to rage among them. They were equally cut off from all communication with the upper ranks of society. In some of the mountain parishes, Hacketstown for instance, on the borders of Carlow, there is not a resident gentleman but the rector; yet I am persuaded, that the inhabitants of the bye lanes of the towns have as little intercourse with their superiors in rank, as the inhabitants of these remote districts.

The state of the poor when the epidemic appeared, was worse than it had at any former time been known, in consequence of a succession of unfavourable seasons: in Wexford, at the period of my inspection, it was still very miserable. In some places not one half of the labouring poor had employment; many of the farmers had discharged all the labourers they were wont to employ; and few, if any, retained the usual number. At an average potatoes were 5d. per stone, labourers' wages about 10d. a day without food: it is computed that a labourer, at his three meals, will consume a stone of potatoes daily. Turf in most places was uncommonly dear. The clothes of the poor were nearly worn out, and many of them slept in their body-clothes for want of blankets. Thus depressed in strength and spirits, they were thrown open to the disease which every where existed among them; and which it was generally thought was propagated not merely from one neighbour to another, but by the swarms of beggars who overran the country: and it is well known that, from motives of mistaken charity, beggars are seldom refused admission into the cabin of the labourer, or the house of the farmer. From Dublin to Gorey, I heard complaints of the injury which the country had sustained from the beggars, who were banished from Dublin last year by the Mendicity Association. Many of these wanderers laboured under fever, and others probably con-

veyed contagion from house to house in their clothes; and contagion, when so conveyed, is generally supposed to be more active and injurious than when it proceeds from the persons of the infected. This, which is an important consideration in the prevention of fever, may be practically illustrated by the following occurrence, which took place in the neighbourhood of Gorey, under the eye of a respectable physician of that town, just before fever became epidemic. A beggar from Limerick obtained admission into a labourer's cabin for herself and a dying child. In five days after she quitted the cabin, fever took place in one of the family, which consisted of a man, his wife and five children; and, in succession, within a day or two of each other, every individual sickened; and two children from a neighbouring cabin, who had attended the child's wake, took the same fever within ten days after, and communicated it to their family. The beggar (herself in good health) went to a farmer's house two miles off, and obtained a lodging the night after her child was buried; every individual in that family, a man, his wife, two children and a servant, also took the fever within a few days: these fevers were all severe.

In the parish of Delgany, county of Wicklow, the small farmers and labourers who refused admission to beggars, and who ceased to frequent wakes, escaped the fever, while others of the same class suffered; and some months after a fever had gone through a family in the Wicklow mountains, the disease was frequently re-introduced by beggars from Dublin.

It is remarkable, that the great increase of fever cases was observed in most parts of the county of Wicklow in the latter end of the summer of 1817, when there was every reason to expect a second unproductive harvest; while in Wexford it was not observed until the latter end

of 1818; which, if we suppose the disease influenced by scarcity of provisions, may perhaps be explained in the following manner:—Wexford, being almost entirely a tillage country, requiring a great deal of rain, suffered less by the wet seasons of 1816 and 1817 than any county in Ireland. In the spring and summer of 1818, the epidemic could scarcely be said to have extended to Wexford; it certainly prevailed at New Ross on the borders of the county of Kilkenny; but its existence at that time was not acknowledged by practitioners of medicine in the towns of Enniscorthy, Wexford and Newtown Barry. But the drought of that year caused a very short crop; and consequently the food of the poor, though of a very good quality, for the last five or six months has been both scarce and dear. In the town of Wexford I found potatoes at 7*d.* and 8*d.* a stone; and I understood, while in Tullow, in the county of Carlow, that every market day eight or ten cars were sent thither from the county of Wexford for potatoes, which were sold at 4*d.* a stone in Tullow.

In many places both in Wexford and Wicklow, an increase of fever cases was observed to follow any diminution of employment; and it was in this way that many intelligent persons accounted for the more frequent occurrence of fever at the period of my inspection, which took place at the *dead* season of the year.

5.—The disease, which in the county of Wicklow was at first severe, and often fatal, did not, at the time of my visit, differ from the ordinary continued fever of the country, unless in being milder and shorter; even under the most unfavourable circumstances of hospital accommodation, and under very opposite methods of treatment, during the last eight or nine months the patients almost all recovered. The hospital of Hacketstown was an

earthen-floored room in a waste house, from 16 to 18 feet square, unventilated save by the door, chimney, and a hole in the thatch; and so dark that I could not count the patients, who, twenty-seven in number, lay on straw spread on the floor, generally two under one blanket, and so crowded, that there was no perceptible space between them. Yet, out of two hundred fever patients, who had been in this hospital within a few months, not one had died; and notwithstanding the extreme poverty of the inhabitants, and the want of every comfort but fuel, not more than 5 or 6 persons had died of fever in that parish during a period of six months.

In the fever hospitals of the counties of Wicklow and Wexford which I visited, I saw about two hundred sick, of whom not more than eight or ten appeared to be severely ill, and not more than 3 or 4 of these dangerously; of the latter, it is probable that all, with one exception, recovered. A physician in Enniscorthy, where, I may remark, it was in contemplation to establish a board of health, assured me that he had seen only one instance of the Typhus Gravior since May. I found only one corpse in these hospitals; and in the course of five days travelling I met only one funeral, and that of a person who died of jaundice. The disease was more fatal in the towns than in the country, and among those who underwent fever in their own cabins than among such as went into hospital; yet probably not one in forty died even of the former during the last eight months. Among the farmers and the higher classes the mortality was heavy, probably about one in three, in all beyond the age of twenty-five.

The disease, which on its first appearance in the county of Wicklow extended at an average to fourteen

days, had of late, in a great majority of cases, terminated in five.

6.—In all the towns which I visited in these counties, means had been taken to restrain the progress of fever; the upper classes raised subscriptions, and formed committees for the relief of the poor; these committees obtained prompt assistance from Government, without which their benevolent intentions could not have been carried into effect. Fever hospitals were established, and many of the indigent sick were attended at home. In some places money, and in others provisions, were given to convalescents. In certain districts, as for instance at Rathdrum, inspectors were sent round to detect disease; the sick were conveyed to the hospital, their bedding and furniture were washed, their cabins fumigated and lime-washed, and provided with windows; and constables were stationed on the highways to drive away beggars. These measures seemed to restrain, but they did not suppress the disease.

The injury done by beggars was evident to every observing person. Finger posts were put up in several places, warning them off; and several Catholic clergymen, from the altar, denounced the practice of harbouring them. At Baltinglass, a board of health was established in December 1818, under the Act of last Session; this board, whose meetings were held once a fortnight, appointed inspectors, circulated printed instructions among the poor, caused the sick to be removed to hospital without delay, their cabins to be whitewashed, their furniture washed, their clothes and bedding disinfected, lending them blankets in the mean while: and at the time of my visit to Baltinglass and Stratford-on-Slaney, they were deliberating on the best means of excluding from

their district of nine parishes, all strolling beggars and vagrants. Their plan however was not perfected, and consequently its effects could not be ascertained; however, it had given them a command of money, at a time when their resources were nearly exhausted, and they seemed to expect from it considerable advantages.

7.—The tendency to relapse after the fever, which was not great at first, had become so, and was thought to be in an inverse proportion to the duration of the first attack of fever. The five-day fever was generally succeeded by one or two relapses. Fever had also occurred in the same individual, at distant periods, from the same cause which had at first produced it; namely, from communication with those who laboured under the disease.

8.—Judging from observations made in the fever hospitals in Dublin, I was prepared to find the constitutions of many of those who had [undergone the disease much injured thereby; but this was by no means the case. It was affirmed by all the practitioners of medicine whom I interrogated, that the fever seldom left any *dreg* of disease behind it; and this was confirmed by the looks of the peasantry whom I saw at work in the fields: nothing in their appearance indicated disease, discontent, or even poverty, unless that their clothes were generally in a bad state.

9.—Although the disease in general was mild and short among the poor, yet it had been productive of great misery, from its disposition to spread through families, and from its tendency to return. A five-day fever is supposed by the poor themselves, more infectious than one of longer duration. When fever once got into a cabin, it infected every individual of the family; and relapses so often occurred, that it was seldom eradicated

in less than two or three months; by which many an industrious labourer was ruined. And this was not confined to the poorer parts of the country; in the barony of Forth, one of the most prosperous parts of the county of Wexford, many persons who had lived in comfort were so reduced, by prolonged sickness, as to be forced to desert their houses, and take to the road as beggars. The fever was supposed highly infectious in the cabins of the poor, but it seldom spread in a house where due attention was paid to ventilation and cleanliness: I heard of only one instance in which it spread through a family in the upper ranks.

CARLOW, KILKENNY, QUEEN'S COUNTY, AND KILDARE.

IN every town in these four counties, in which my inquiries were made, with one exception, I learnt that fever had existed among the poor long before the present epidemic appeared. I was assured by physicians, who have practised for thirty years in Carlow and Kilkenny, the largest towns in this part of the province, that, during all that time, there has been an uninterrupted succession of cases of fever among the poor in their respective neighbourhoods. The physician to the fever hospital at Naas affirms, that fever has not been absent from that neighbourhood for 18 years. Portarlington, during 16 years, the period of the senior physician's residence, has never been free from fever. The Roman Catholic clergyman,

during 10 years residence in the parish of Tullow, has been called from 40 to 100 times annually, to administer spiritual comforts to persons in fever. It was admitted, however, that fever had, during the last two years, prevailed to an extent formerly unknown.

At Castledermot in the Co. of Carlow, in one or two towns in the Queen's County, in particular at Portarlinton, and among the bogs which lie between the towns of Kildare and Rathangan, there were at the time of my visit rather more cases of fever than there had been in December last. In Castledermot, the labouring poor were in miserable circumstances: there were, I was told, at least 200 willing labourers out of 500, without employment, the wages of the labourer being only 4*d.* a day with food, and potatoes 3½*d.* a stone; but here, and at Portarlinton also, the cases were not by one half so numerous as they were last year at the same season. In the hospital near Portarlinton, there were only twenty-seven cases of fever, which, as it accommodated the sick, not merely of the town, but of the populous barony of Portneinch, showed no great extent of disease; and as there was an active board of health in that barony, it is probable that the hospital contained many cases which, had they occurred among the poor of a neglected district, would never have been heard of. In every other part of the four counties, fever was sensibly on the decline; there were not more than two or three cases of fever in Maryboro'; in Carlow, the physician to the fever hospital considered the epidemic as nearly over: and in Kilkenny there was not more fever than usual at this season (February 1819.)

2.—The disease was nearly confined to the poor, among whom fever had prevailed epidemically, during the period above mentioned, in every part of these four counties.

3.—A manifest increase of fever cases began to be observed in the winter of 1816, and ensuing spring; but in most places fever seems to have become epidemic, about the beginning of autumn 1817. It was at its height from about the middle of autumn to the end of the following winter; at that time also it was most malignant and fatal.

4.—Two unproductive seasons in succession had reduced the labouring class to the greatest poverty. Little or no employment could be had by labourers; their clothes were worn out; from the wetness of the weather, turf for fuel could not be saved. Potatoes were wet, scarce and dear. Oats were also scarce and dear. Wheat every where malty; so that when the epidemic began, the poor in many places were living upon wild plants. In the neighbourhood of Kilkenny they were feeding on hips, on nettletops, and other weeds. Near Stradbally, many families had fed on the tops of the wild turnip;* and at Castledermot this weed (called Prasha Bwee) and a little malty flour, formed the chief articles of nourishment.

5.—It is the general opinion, that the disease does not differ from the fever which usually prevails in Ireland. At first there was an unusual number of severe cases, and the patients were in general spotted, but as the epidemic advanced, the cases became milder; and I believe continued fever never was more mild than in the generality of the cases in those parts of the province of Leinster which I have visited: as in Wicklow and Wexford, so in Carlow, Kilkenny, Queen's County, and Kildare, it was, in a great majority of instances, a five-day fever, subject to relapses, which scarcely ever occurred in the long fever.

* Brassica Napus.

The only place in which the cases were still severe, and the mortality considerable, was Kilkenny; but this I believe arose from dysentery being combined with fever, thereby producing an unmanageable variety of disease.

In the upper ranks the disease has been, throughout the epidemic, malignant and fatal.

6.—The means taken by the poor themselves to restrain the ravages of fever, ought to be stated. When any individual of a family was affected with fever, the rest sometimes were so much impressed with the danger of contagion, that they had him removed to a barn or out-house (where they had prepared a bed, and broken a hole in the wall to admit of their handing in medicines, and drink) and locked the door, which was not unlocked till some time after the disease was over. This was not a very common practice. But when a stranger, or a labourer who had no cabin of his own, took the disease, it was quite customary to prepare a shed for him by the way side; this was done by inclining some spars or sticks against a wall, or bank of a ditch, and covering them with straw. Under these sheds, which the rain penetrated, the patients lay on a little straw; and cruel though such treatment may appear, it was found by experience that many more in proportion died in the cabins than in the sheds: indeed some medical practitioners thought so favourably of the sheds, that they recommended them to those who could have remained in their cabins.

In most places there were committees of the more respectable inhabitants formed for the suppression of fever; whose chief objects were, early removal of the sick to fever hospitals, whitewashing and cleansing infected houses, furniture, and bed and body clothes, and supplying convalescents with nourishment; and when their funds ad-

mitted of it, they also distributed food at a cheap rate to the poor. In many places the operations of the fever committees could not have been carried on, or must have been prematurely discontinued, had they not obtained assistance from Government.

At Ballitore, a committee of this kind was formed, who explained to the poor, in a series of printed notices, the connection of fever with want of cleanliness and ventilation; instructed them in the most effectual methods of cleansing their houses, furniture, clothes and persons; cautioned them against idly going into infected houses, attending wakes and funerals, and admitting strolling beggars into their dwellings: and recommended those who had recovered from fever not to go into a neighbour's house, or into any place of public worship, for fourteen days after recovery. While they assured the poor that cleanliness and good air would check disease, improve their health and strength, and increase their comforts; they proclaimed to them the maxim which is generally overlooked by charitable associations, namely, that the best directed efforts are unavailing, unless when assisted by the regular and continued exertions of the poor themselves: and acting upon this principle, they declared, that in order to discourage as much as possible that shameful and dangerous disregard of decency and cleanliness, so common among the labouring class, they were unanimously determined to employ such persons only as should keep their cabins clean, whitewashed, provided with a chimney, and with windows hung on hinges, or otherwise capable of admitting fresh air, and the yard or road before their doors free from dunghills or other filth. At Ballitore there was not a case of fever at the time of my visit.

At Portarlinton I found a board of health, composed of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, which embraced

the whole barony of Portneinch, and promised to be efficacious, as each member of the board undertook the inspection of the sick on his own property and immediate neighbourhood; taking care to have every case of fever reported to the physicians of the hospital without delay, and that all the necessary measures of disinfection should be practised.

7.—Relapses were much more frequent than at the commencement and during the height of the epidemic, and instances every where occurred of the disease having affected the same individual several times: it seemed, however, a general opinion, that persons who had suffered from fever were less liable to it than others.

8.—At Kilkenny, the fever had in some instances degenerated into a dysentery; but, generally speaking, recovery had every where been complete.

9.—All ranks and classes of the people believed in the contagion of the epidemic fever; and several instances were related to me, in proof of this opinion, similar to that stated in the report of my first tour of inspection. Thus, in the neighbourhood of Durrow, a woman from Kilkenny, with a sick child, introduced the disease into twelve or fifteen houses, which were her resting places in wandering through that country. Her track for many miles could be traced, by the disease which she left behind her. Near Cuffesborough, in the same neighbourhood, it was introduced by a strolling beggar, in the same manner. The senior physician to the fever hospital at Portneinch informed me, that the disease occurred in one cottage five times in the course of twelve months; and during each visitation, almost every individual of the family, inhabiting that cottage, suffered; nor was the disease to be eradicated from amongst them till their cabin was

burnt. In that neighbourhood five or six cottages were burnt, in order to destroy a latent contagion which resisted all the ordinary means of disinfection.

The nurses and other servants of the different fever hospitals invariably contracted fever, and in many instances the medical attendants also. At Kilkenny, the housekeeper, nurses, and most of the servants, had the disease repeatedly during the epidemic; the apothecary and his assistant died of the fever; in short, no person connected with the hospital escaped but one of the physicians. It is necessary to state, that the house of industry at Kilkenny had been converted into a fever hospital, for which it was ill suited. The dormitories, which had become fever wards, although clean and cheerful, and not crowded, were not sufficiently ventilated. They had neither chimnies nor ventilators; and although I have no doubt the windows and doors were generally open, yet this is not enough to secure proper ventilation in a fever ward. It must be admitted, that the disease was contagious in private houses only when cleanliness and ventilation were neglected or unattainable.

WESTMEATH, LONGFORD, AND KING'S COUNTY.

1.—IN these three counties the epidemic was considered as nearly if not entirely over, with the exception of two places, namely, Edenderry and Longford. 1st. In Edenderry, from the 1st to the 8th of February 1819,

both days inclusive, twelve patients in fever had sent to the dispensary for assistance, five of whom resided at a distance of five miles from the town, and the rest at two, three, and four miles distance.* 2. Longford also was represented to me as in an alarming state: I heard that the fever was in the gaol, and was raging among the poor; but, on visiting that town, I found, in the very crowded gaol, only two persons in fever, and six convalescents, the disease being of the mildest kind. The apothecary in Longford declared the town to be as free from fever as he had ever known it, and not more than two fever patients had applied at the dispensary, the records of which I examined, from the 22d of February to the 8th of March. In Longford the disease had prevailed almost universally in the winter of 1817; and 21 respectable housekeepers, besides many of the poor, had died of it in a short time when it was at its height.

2.—In every part of these three counties there had been a remarkable increase of fever, with which a few of the gentry, a good many farmers, and the poor generally, had been affected. It appears that Westmeath has suffered less than any county which I have yet visited, with the exception of Wexford; yet in many parts of Westmeath scarcely a cabin escaped.

3.—It is certain that fever had been epidemic in some neglected parts of the country, for a long time before any unusual extent of disease was suspected in Dublin. In the neighbourhood of Philipstown the epidemic existed among the poor, for a year before it first attracted general notice in that town, in September 1817. In Edenderry, in

* In July 1817, when the fever was rife in the neighbourhood, there were, exclusive of country patients, 80 persons at one time, in this small town, under the care of the physician to the dispensary.

like manner, it commenced in August 1816: in most places, however, it originated in the beginning of Autumn 1817. It soon attained its greatest height, and is supposed to have been most general, and most severe and fatal, in the latter end of that autumn, and in the winter and spring following. In the summer of 1818, the mortality from the disease greatly abated: since the end of summer the disease has been progressively declining.

4.—In many parts of these counties there was the same deficiency of wholesome food, of good fuel, and of employment, in 1816 and 1817, as in most other parts of Ireland; almost all the poor near Kinnegad fed on *Prasha*, boiled with some salt, until subscriptions were entered into, and meal, made of beans and wheat ground together, was sold to them at a low rate. And the scarcity of fuel was such, that even on the borders of the bog of Allen, owing to the long continuance of wet weather, there was not a piece of turf fit to be burned. It deserves to be noticed, that during the failure of the common necessities of life, and the general want of employment, the poor conducted themselves with the greatest moderation; there was no clamour nor repining, nor scarce an instance of petty theft.

5.—The disease at first was malignant, and generally attended with severe headach, delirium, and spots; but it was considered as differing from the ordinary fever of this country in degree, and not in kind; in summer it became more mild, and was pretty generally a five-day fever, subject to relapse. Among the poor the disease has been throughout regular, uniform, and comparatively unattended with danger, requiring no great refinement of treatment: cooling drinks, free air, and purgative medicines, being sufficient to bring it to a favourable issue in twenty-nine cases out of thirty. Among the

upper ranks, and such as live as the upper ranks do, and have, on the approach of disease, those apprehensions which belong to superior station, the disease has been irregular, complicated, and fatal to one-fourth, or even one-third, under every conceivable treatment.

It is now generally thought that the epidemic has nearly spent itself; but medical practitioners attribute the change in the character of the fever, to the improved condition of the poor. In these three counties I found provisions every where plenty and good; potatoes no where more than 3d. a stone; in the county of Longford, 2d. or 2½d.; and there was nearly as much employment for the poor as they usually have at this season of the year.

The influence of epidemic constitution has been less apparent than might be expected, for the fever every where raged where its predisposing causes subsisted; but as soon as cheerfulness, and a greater portion of bodily vigour were restored by renewed employment and wholesome food, it became milder, and then it gradually disappeared. In Mullingar, Longford, Tullamore, and Philipstown, the principal towns in this tour, although there were still a few cases of fever, the epidemic was considered as nearly over. The month of March furnished the hospital at Parsonstown with only ten cases of fever.

6.—In these three counties, as in every other place which I have visited, much has been done for the relief of the poor, by subscriptions for the purchase of medicines, wine and food. In Tullamore the following measures for the suppression of fever were adopted: about the latter end of July 1817, many cases of fever were discovered in the outlets of the town; upon which a board of governors

of the King's County Infirmary, assisted by the advice of the physician of the town, established a fever hospital contiguous to the infirmary, to which they removed the infected. Lime was supplied to the poor for whitewashing their houses; nuisances of every kind were removed; all strange beggars were forced to leave the town, and constables were employed in keeping them away. Finally, inspectors were appointed to examine the suspected houses, which were fumigated and whitewashed with lime freshly slacked; to see that the clothes of the diseased were washed, and their bed clothes exposed to the air, on successive days; that the straw of their beds was burnt, and that they were supplied with fresh straw; to make a return of new cases, as well as report the state of convalescents. These means, doubtless, were highly beneficial, by procuring speedy relief for the sick; and by separating the diseased from the healthy, and *disinfecting* their houses, the spread of sickness was probably checked, but fever was not subdued; as an epidemic it was over, but it was not quite eradicated at the period of my visit, although a year and an half had elapsed from the time when these means of prevention were first adopted.

7.—Relapses have been every where frequent since the epidemic began to decline, and they generally follow the short fever: those who have had the fever are considered less liable to it than others.

8.—In some few instances the fever was followed by rheumatism, dropsy, and cutaneous eruptions; but persons of a sound constitution have seldom been permanently injured by it. In short, it has not materially deteriorated the constitutions of those who have suffered under it; while it has taught them the value of cleanliness, and the folly and danger of harbouring those idle vagrants who infest the country.

9.—Professional men entertain no doubt of the fever being contagious; when the disease was once admitted into a cabin, it generally affected every inmate in succession; to this there was scarcely an exception. In the middling and upper ranks, the medical and clerical visitors of the sick suffered much more from the disease than other persons; all the attendants upon the sick in the hospital of Tullamore had the fever, and two of the nurses died of it. An experienced physician of Parsonstown has known the disease conveyed from an infected mother, by her infant, to the whole family of the hired nurse. So convinced were the poor of the disease being infectious, that their conduct in many places towards itinerants, and in particular itinerant beggars, from being kind and hospitable, had become stern and repulsive; they drove all beggars from their doors, charging them with being the authors of their greatest misfortunes, by spreading disease through the country. The only fact which militates against the contagious nature of the fever, is, its simultaneous appearance in distant parts of the province; but I conceive that this cannot be attributed solely to an epidemic influence, for the seeds of disease were very generally sown, and the causes which promote its growth every where in active operation.

Upon the activity of the predisposing causes of fever, viz. scarcity of food, and dejection of mind, the early or late appearance of the epidemic seemed chiefly to depend. 1st. When they were in very powerful operation, the epidemic appeared early, the ordinary stock of fever being sufficient quickly to infect the community. 2dly. In places in which they were less operative, disease diffused itself slowly, and the epidemic appeared late. 3dly. Many districts might have escaped altogether, had not the sources of infection been multiplied by diseased itinerants.

MEATH AND LOUTH.

1.—IN Drogheda, Dundalk, Kells, and Navan, the epidemic was considered as over; there were not as many cases of fever in these towns as are usually to be met with at this season. The senior physician at Drogheda has known that town for upwards of 30 years, during which time it has never been entirely without fever. In some of the small towns there was not a single patient in fever; this was the case in Collon and Slane; 593 cases of fever were attended by the physician to the Slane dispensary, between the 1st July 1817 and 1st July 1818, and only 45 subsequent to the latter date.

At Ardee, within a space of eight miles square, there was only one case of fever known to the surgeon to the Ardee dispensary; the same practitioner had attended nearly 900 patients in fever between the 20th June 1817 and the 20th June 1818.

2.—In these two counties the disease affected the poor chiefly, but it was not confined to them.

3.—The epidemic appeared in several parts of the counties of Meath and Louth in the months of May, June, and July 1817; was at its greatest height in the latter end of that year, at which time it was most fatal also, and began to abate in severity and frequency early in summer 1818.

4.—When the epidemic commenced, the poor were labouring under the greatest distress, in consequence of the want of employment, and the scarcity of fuel and provi-

sions, which were of bad quality; hence they were in a state of great despondency. In many places they subsisted chiefly on the coarsest kind of bran, called Pollard, and upon wild plants.

5.—The prevalent disease was considered by all to be the common continued fever of the country; the disease became shorter and milder before it ceased to be epidemical; at last the five-day fever, with frequent relapses, was very common.

6.—In these two counties the same means were adopted for the relief of the poor as in other parts of the province; committees of the upper ranks met and obtained subscriptions for the purposes of separating the sick from the uninfected, of purifying their persons and houses, and supplying the convalescents with nourishment.

At Drogheda the county infirmary was converted into a fever hospital while the epidemic lasted. At Dundalk a board of health was established, consisting of the resident clergy, medical practitioners, and neighbouring gentry; a fever hospital was hired; and great promptitude, zeal and judgment were manifested by the inhabitants, in the measures which were adopted for the relief of the sick. It was the opinion of a respectable practitioner of medicine at Kells, where there are many resident gentry, who are uniformly attentive to the interests of the poor, that the fever was less general than it would have been, and than it was elsewhere, owing to the abundant supplies of provisions afforded by the opulent inhabitants of that neighbourhood to the labouring poor during the time of scarcity. And at Navan it was thought that the soup kitchens, which were established in anticipation of a famine, had been instrumental in keeping down the fever.

The poor in these places submitted with admirable patience to all their hardships, which they considered as inevitable, receiving with gratitude the benefits which were conferred upon them by their superiors.

It is worthy of record, that in the county of Louth the fever disappeared every where shortly after employment was restored to the poor. And the linen trade having acquired a vigour which it had not possessed for several years, the poor were generally employed, and potatoes were cheap and of good quality; and hence, perhaps, the excellent state of the public health at the time of my inspection of that county (March 1819.)

7.—The disease frequently recurred in the same individual, and affected whole families more than once; but most persons believed that those who had the fever were less liable to it than the unseasoned.

8.—The fever did not produce any permanently bad effect on the constitution.

9.—The disease every where extended through the families of the poor; all who were employed in attending the sick in hospital were affected with it. It was fatal to a physician and two apothecaries at Dundalk, who attended the fever hospital of that town. In Slane, fever first appeared in a house in which travellers of the poorest description lodge. There was not a case of fever in the town until two strangers from Ardee came to that lodging house, shortly after which fever appeared in the family; it was then ascertained that the strangers had just recovered from fever, which had raged at Ardee. The second family in which fever appeared, was one between which and that first infected, there was constant communication; the next individual affected was the physician

to the dispensary, who had been visiting in both houses: then the disease became general.

DUBLIN.

1.—THE *recapitulation* of the general return* of fever patients admitted into the Dublin hospitals during nineteen months, ending 31st March 1819, which is added to this report, will shew the rise, progress, and present decline of the epidemic in the city of Dublin. With some trifling exceptions, fever is on the decline in the county of Dublin.

2.—Fever has been general among the poor in all parts of Dublin, but especially in the more crowded and filthy streets, lanes, and courts of the city. The general state of health of the garrison of Dublin, as indeed of the troops all over the kingdom, has been excellent. In most of the large charitable institutions, where food of the usual quality and quantity has been served out, there has been no increase of fever.

3.—The epidemic commenced in the city of Dublin about the 1st of September 1817. It was first observed in Barrack-street, Church-street, and the adjoining lanes. These lanes are in the line of the northern and western roads; and it was ascertained that fever had been previously spreading in many of the villages, which commu-

* This return (*see Appendix*) was presented to Government by the Director General of Military Hospitals.

nicate with Dublin by means of these roads. In some of these villages no increase of disease was observed, until the labourers from Conaught and from some parts of Ulster, came up in 1817, in quest of harvest work. In 1817, they came up in the beginning of July, or even earlier, driven from home by famine. Thus at Kilcock, in which there are sometimes 3,000 labourers at one time from Roscommon and Mayo, no increase of fever was observed among the inhabitants till the latter end of August, prior to which, however, many cases of fever were observed among the Conaught labourers, who lodged in the cabins around Kilcock. Many of the inhabitants of Dunboyne, Maynooth, and Swords, all stations for labourers from Roscommon, Mayo, Leitrim, Sligo, Cavan, and Monaghan, who laboured under fever in the month of September, when they understood the nature of their illness, had themselves conveyed into Dublin, and took up their abode in Barrack-street, Church-street, &c. in hopes of getting into an hospital; and thus they introduced disease into these streets, which has maintained its ground in them ever since. Fever prevailed among the county of Dublin mountains above Stepaside, and about Kilgobbin and Kilternan, in the end of 1816, at which time hardly a cabin escaped.

4.—The condition of that part of the community which suffered most in Dublin, will appear from a Report made to the governors of the House of Industry by their inspectors, of the state of Barrack-street and Church-street; the streets which supplied the hospitals of the House of Industry with the greatest number of fever patients during the months of September, October, November, and December 1817.

“ Barrack-street and Church-street are on the north side of the Liffey, and in the line of the northern and

western roads. Barrack-street is nearly parallel with the Liffey, between which and its eastern extremity are yards for cattle, and slaughter-houses : the river at high water is nearly on a level with the cellars. In Barrack-street there are 85 houses, the apartments of which are in general much crowded ; thus 52 houses contain, in 390 apartments, 1,318 persons ; of which number 332 adults are unemployed ; most of whom are in a state of extreme indigence. There are several public houses, which are much frequented, particularly in the evenings ; and many of the cellars are used as public eating rooms. Soldiers and their followers have hitherto afforded means of subsistence to many room-keepers, who are now in great distress. During the last three months 111 persons have had fever, which appears in general to have arisen from contagion. Church-street consists of 181 houses, which, with those in the adjoining courts, are much more crowded than the houses of Barrack-street ; thus, in 71 houses of this street and adjoining courts, consisting of 393 apartments, 1,997 persons dwell ; of whom 628 are without employment. In Church-street, 123 persons have had fever within the last three months. Foul lanes, courts and yards, are interposed between this and the adjoining streets. A few respectable shopkeepers excepted, the entire street is inhabited by persons of the lowest order. There are many cellars which have no light but from the door, which in several is nearly closed by bundles of rags, vegetables, and other articles exposed to sale. In some of these cellars the inhabitants sleep on the floors, which are all earthen ; but in general they have bedsteads. Most of the courts are crowded and filthy. Nicholson's-court, which immediately joins the root market, contains 151 persons in 28 small apartments, of whom 89 are unemployed : their state is very miserable, there being only two bedsteads and two blankets in the whole court. Fever appeared in three apartments of this court ; in one, the whole family were sick,

the individual first affected not having been removed; in the others only two persons were taken ill, owing to early removal and cleansing. The effect of early removal of the sick, and the cleansing and whitewashing of their apartments, was very remarkable in checking the progress of the disease in some families; while from the neglect of these precautions, the number of the sick rapidly increased in others. Two neighbouring houses in Barrack-street afforded an illustration of this remark, namely, Nos. 41 and 47. In the former the disease began in two different families, and its progress was immediately checked by early removal, cleansing, &c. In the latter, the individual first affected remained at home, and died of the fever, but not before he had communicated the disease to eighteen persons in a short time."

The epidemic was of later appearance in Dublin than in most parts of Ireland, which was probably attributable to provisions being of better quality and more abundant than elsewhere; perhaps something was also due to the exertions of the inhabitants who met at the Mansion-house, and subscribed largely for the purpose of giving employment to the labouring poor.

5.—The disease has been the same which is generally observed in Dublin; nor has any change in its character taken place, unless what may be accounted for by the change of seasons. Although the hospitals are now less crowded than they were, the cases are as severe as at any time since the epidemic commenced; and there were lately several cases of a malignant kind among the upper ranks.

6.—Hospital accommodation, at the expense of Government, has been afforded to all applicants, labouring under fever, in the city of Dublin; and of late, wholesome food has been supplied to convalescents for some time after their discharge from hospital. The several fever estab-

lishments having medical inspectors, and whitewashers, attached to them, have become each the centre of a district; the sick being for the most part accommodated in the hospital of the district in which they reside. Numerous scavengers, paid by the Governors of the House of Industry, have been employed to remove filth from the areas, courts, and even houses of the poor, whereby all the poorer parts of the city are cleansed once a fortnight. Lastly, a committee of health, consisting of a governor and physician, deputed from each of the fever hospitals, has been appointed to promote concert in the operations of these establishments, and watch over the progress of epidemic disease.

The important communications which have been made to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant by the governors and physicians of the different fever hospitals of Dublin, as well as by the central committee of health, render it unnecessary for me to dwell upon this part of the subject, which however I cannot dismiss without remarking, that an association, consisting of many benevolent individuals of St. Peter's parish, by instituting a system of minute inspection, followed by early removal of the sick to hospital, and careful purification of their houses, diminished, for a time, the number of cases of fever in that parish. Their plan was rendered more efficient by the establishment of a *disinfecting* house, furnished with boilers and ovens for washing and stoving the clothes and bedding of the poor, as also by supporting those who had been in hospital, until they were fully restored to strength, whereby the danger of relapse was much diminished.

7.—Relapses have been frequent, particularly in such patients as from having had short fevers were early discharged from hospital, or who insisted upon leaving hospital before they were fit for work. It is thought that re-

lapses have been less frequent since nourishment has been distributed from the kitchens of the several hospitals to the convalescents after their discharge.

8.—The fever has been frequently followed by dysentery, dropsy, rheumatism, and, in the pre-disposed, by consumption: it has been much more injurious in its consequences in Dublin than in the country.

9.—I believe there is not a physician or medical inspector belonging to the fever hospitals in Dublin, who entertains a doubt of the infectious nature of the disease. In the hospitals of the House of Industry there were, till lately, 170 persons engaged in tending the fever patients; from which part of the establishment, within the last eighteen months, have been furnished 198 cases of fever. No clinical clerk, apothecary, or unseasoned nurse or servant, has escaped, and some have had the fever three or four times.* Similar observations have been made in the other hospitals; yet I have not heard of one instance of a second individual of a family, in the upper ranks in Dublin, being affected with the epidemic fever, such security do cleanliness and ventilation afford.

*Summary of the Observations made during the foregoing
Inspection of the Province of Leinster.*

1.—IT appears that continued fever has existed among the poor of the province of Leinster for many years.

2.—That in 1817, but more especially towards the

* Dr. Macloghlin, a learned and scientific physician, died last night of fever, which there is every reason to think he caught in the exercise of his office of inspector.—April 8th, 1819.

close of that year, there was a great scarcity of wholesome food, in many parts amounting to a famine, and also of fuel; that the clothes of the poor were worn out; and that many of them were in a state of dejection of mind from these hardships, and from a general failure of employment.

3.—That at this period the common continued fever of the country became epidemical; that at first it raged with severity, in some places carrying off considerable numbers; that it began to abate in severity about the middle of summer 1818; since which time it has almost every where become less frequent also, so that in general it has ceased to be epidemical; that since it began to abate in severity, its duration in individuals has been much shortened, but with a proportionate tendency to relapse.

4.—That the disease has spread through families in which ventilation or cleanliness were neglected or unattainable; has been conveyed from one cabin to another by the friendly visitors of the sick, but has been still more widely disseminated by strolling beggars and labourers traversing the country in quest of employment; and lastly, that the unseasoned servants of fever hospitals have, with scarce an exception, contracted the disease.

5.—That in the upper ranks few comparatively have caught the fever, and of these a large proportion have been medical and clerical attendants upon the sick; that during the whole course of the epidemic, fever has been fatal in a proportion of one in four, or even one in three, among those affected with it in the upper or middling ranks, while not one in thirty or forty died among the poor; that the disease has seldom if ever spread through families in which proper attention has been paid to ventilation and cleanliness.

6.—Finally; that the disease has been most destructive in those parts of the country where the poor have least intercourse with the rich.

CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS.

THUS have I endeavoured to ascertain, by inquiry made on the spot, the exact state of Fever throughout the province of Leinster. The Lord Lieutenant has been further pleased to command me to submit, in detail, for his Excellency's consideration, such medical or preventive measures as may prove the means, not only of relieving the persons afflicted with contagious fever, but of checking its future progress in their dwellings: on these measures, however, I fear I have nothing new to offer; indeed I know little of this part of the subject but its difficulties.

Various plans have been formed by benevolent persons with whom I have conversed, for the complete extinction of fever in Ireland; most of which plans concur in two points; namely, in the general establishment of fever hospitals, and of boards of health.

The general establishment of fever hospitals is entitled to more consideration than has been bestowed upon it: the following are some of the objections to which it appears liable. The multiplication of hospitals in the country would afford the rich but too plausible an excuse for neglecting the indigent sick. By furnishing the poor with a ready asylum in their sickness, these institutions

would have a tendency to make them even less provident than they are; while at the same time they would still farther weaken that spirit of independence which ought to be encouraged in the poor of this country. Lastly, to meet an occasional evil, a permanent expense would be entailed upon the districts in which such hospitals should be established. Fever hospitals in large towns, under the superintendence of active and intelligent governors, are admirable institutions, adding much to the security and comfort of the opulent; and, in the present crowded state of the dwellings of the poor, materially checking the progress of disease. But in the country parts of Ireland, I should apprehend, in addition to the objections already stated, that permanent establishments of this kind, although at first they might be given to such medical practitioners as have distinguished themselves by their humane and disinterested attention to the poor, and although their discipline for a time might be exact, would eventually, when zeal became cold, be liable to the same abuses which have crept into similar institutions in many parts of Ireland. It seems better that these establishments in the country should be provisional. Temporary fever hospitals, to meet an exigence such as that which providentially is now nearly over, might be erected in a few days, at a trifling expense. I have an estimate in my possession for a fever hospital, which it was in contemplation to build at Ballytore, for the accommodation of 15 or 16 patients, which estimate amounts to £.48. 6s.; whereas a permanent hospital for the same number of patients would probably have cost nearly a thousand pounds; and now that there is not a single case of fever in that town, it would have been empty and neglected, in which case it would soon have become ruinous. In Wexford, I saw 20 patients in a shed which answered all the purposes of a fever hospital, and cost only £.50. Perhaps some of the existing establishments, such as the county

infirmaries, might, during the existence of epidemic disease, be converted into fever hospitals; and the well-known fact that, at such a time, all other diseases are comparatively rare, would sanction the occasional appropriation of these institutions to a purpose for which they were not originally intended.

Had the epidemic been confined to one town, barony, or even county, it is probable that it might have been subdued; but I suspect that nothing short of the means employed for putting down the Plague, would have accomplished its subjugation. Ample hospital accommodation, a complete organization of medical police, with a *cordon* of armed constables or troops to cut off all communication between the district in question and the surrounding country, would have been necessary. Whether these means, involving great expense in an exhausted country, and probably rendering the supply of provisions still more difficult than it actually was, would have been advisable, it is for others to determine. But in the present instance disease was universal, and the wildest speculator could scarcely expect a simultaneous movement in every part of the kingdom, with a view of subduing it; nay, had the disease been a mortal plague, instead of a mild fever, such a concurrent exertion could not have been obtained. For it is obvious, that the only sure foundation for such a movement, namely, intelligent Boards of Health, with all the apparatus of hospitals, convalescent and disinfecting houses, &c. however practicable at Wexford, Tullamore, Portarlinton or Kells, or where there are many independent and benevolent persons, and how useful soever these establishments might prove in such places, they were unattainable in those parts of the country in which the epidemic was most destructive, from the want of residents possessing authority, and sufficient information in these districts. Fever obviously committed its greatest ra-

vages where the poor were supine, from the absence of persons of superior rank to protect and encourage them during the season of their calamity; on the other hand, it did not ravage those districts where that duty was performed by residents of character and independence; the want of such persons, however, unfortunately was much felt during the late crisis, in many parts of the province of Leinster.

I believe that every attempt made to suppress disease, however incomplete, was useful, not merely by instructing the poor in the nature of the difficulty with which they had to struggle, and by showing them how to contend against it; but moreover by making them feel that they were objects of sympathy, and encouraging them to resist an evil which always grows by neglect.

Indeed, were associations for the relief of the poor when in sickness, permanently established in places which could not maintain a board of health, they would do more towards restraining the spread of disease than any measure which has been suggested. The individuals composing such associations would become familiar with the miseries of the poor, and when any unusual sickness should again occur, by experience in the work of charity would be enabled to apply the proper remedies with a prompt and skilful hand. For it is certain, that the poor in some places were left to struggle with their misfortunes, unaided by their superiors, not from an unwillingness on the part of the latter to assist them, for the spirit every where was excellent, but from ignorance of any effectual method of doing so.

Were such associations general, they would go far towards supplying one of the greatest *desiderata* in this country, namely, a more frequent intercourse between

the upper ranks and the poor. The individuals composing these societies must, however, be connected by no tie but that of charity: they must have no subordinate officers, as clerks, or inspectors, but do their work themselves. Such societies would be more useful, and certainly more popular in many parts of this country, than associations which have the sanction of law; and it is a strong recommendation of the former, that they lately existed in many places, and were productive of great advantages. It is only desirable to convert a temporary and partial into a permanent and general benefit.

In order to give efficiency to these societies, it would be necessary to establish a board of health in Dublin, to which they might apply for advice and assistance when difficulties should arise, which, unassisted, they might find themselves unable to overcome. By means of a board of health corresponding with those societies, with the clergy, magistrates and physicians, in different parts of Ireland, Government might obtain the earliest information relative to every occurrence tending to injure the health of the community, whereby preventive or remedial means would be provided without delay. The establishment of a board of health might also lay the foundation of a general system of medical police, which would probably lead to an increase of the comforts of the poor.

I would not presume to bring the foregoing proposal under the consideration of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, had it not been sanctioned by the approbation of some professional gentlemen, who have bestowed much attention on the health of the poor, and on whose judgment I place every reliance.

A record of the inspection of this kingdom, by which the rise, progress, and present state of disease has been

ascertained, will form an official document of great value. It will illustrate the laws of epidemics, as well as the measures which may be employed for alleviating the miseries which fever occasions. Epidemics of the same kind have, from time to time, occurred in Ireland,* and have been extended by the same cause, namely, a failure of the usual supply of nourishment; in many places these were equally fatal with that under consideration, but were not sufficiently attended to, and are now forgotten; so that when, on the present occasion, disease arose and became general, we were ignorant of the course which it was likely to pursue. The assistance humanely afforded to a suffering people by his Excellency's commands, is also upon record; and should this country again fall under a similar visitation, in distributing the bounty of Government, the advantage of experience will be superadded to just principles.

J. CHEYNE, M. D.

* One within these twenty years.

DUBLIN.

Patients admitted into the Hardwicke Fever Hospital, House of Industry, and the Fever Hospital Cork-street; from the year 1804, when they were established, to September 1st, 1817.

Date.		Hardwicke Hospital.	Cork-street Hospital.
		No. admitted.	No. admitted.
In the year	1804	82	422
...	1805	709	1,028
...	1806	1,276	1,272
...	1807	1,289	1,092
...	1808	1,473	1,072
...	1809	1,129	1,076
...	1810	1,388	1,774
...	1811	1,218	1,478
...	1812	2,006	2,273
...	1813	1,870	2,620
...	1814	2,026	2,398
...	1815	2,451	3,787
...	1816	1,669	2,785
to September 1,	1817	925	1,865*

* The numbers here given contain the patients admitted from the 5th of January of one year, to the 5th of January in the year following.

General Recapitulation of fever patients admitted into the Dublin Hospitals during 18 months, commencing 1st September 1817, and ending 28th of February 1819; divided into periods of three months.

First period:

Total of admissions during three months, ending 30th November 1817	-	-	-	-	-	2,752
Total number of deaths in ditto	-	-	-	-	-	168

Mortality somewhat below one in sixteen.

Average daily admissions somewhat more than thirty.

Second period :

Total of admissions during three months, ending 28th February							
1818	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,344
Total number of deaths in ditto							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	288

Mortality somewhat below one in fifteen.

Average daily admissions somewhat more than forty-eight.

Third period :

Total of admissions during three months, ending 31st May 1818							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,297
Total number of deaths in ditto							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	221

Mortality somewhat above one in twenty-four.

Average daily admissions nearly fifty-eight.

Fourth period :

Total of admissions during three months, ending 31st August 1818							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,377
Total number of deaths in ditto							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	226

Mortality somewhat below one in thirty-two.

Average daily admissions somewhat more than eighty.

Fifth period :

Total of admissions during three months, ending 30th November 1818							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,611
Total number of deaths in ditto							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	350

Mortality one in twenty-two nearly.

Average daily admissions upwards of $94\frac{1}{2}$.

Sixth period :

Total of admissions during three months, ending 28th February 1819							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,870
Total number of deaths in ditto.							
	-	-	-	-	-	-	365

Mortality about one in nineteen.

Average daily admissions somewhat more than seventy-six,

Nota.—The seventh and eight periods have been added for the information of the readers. They verify the opinion contained in the body of the Report that the epidemic was on the decline in Dublin, at the time when the report was written, viz. in April 1819.

Seventh period:

Total of admissions during three months, ending 31st May 1819	4547
Total number of deaths in ditto - - - -	259

Mortality one in eighteen.

Average daily admissions forty-seven.

Eighth period:

Total admissions during three months, ending 31st August 1819	2470
Total number of deaths in ditto - - - -	150

Mortality one in nineteen.

Average daily admissions twenty-seven.

Return of fever patients admitted into the Dublin Fever Hospitals, for one month, commencing the 1st, and ending the 31st of March 1819, both days inclusive.

House of Industry.

Patients in hospital, 28th February 1819	-	501
Admitted from 1st to March 1819	{ City 643 Country 112 }	- 755
		— 1256
Discharged cured	- - 756	} 1,256
Died	- - 53	
In hospitals, 31st March 1819	447	

Mortality, one in 14.

House of Recovery, Cork-street.

Patients in hospital, 28th February 1819	- -	203
Admissions from 1st to 31st March	- -	496
		— 699
Discharged cured	- - - 464	} 699
Died	- - - 25	
In hospital, 31st March 1819	- - 210	

Mortality, one in twenty.

Steeven's Hospital.

Patients in hospital, 28th February 1819	-	-	76	
Admissions from 1st to 31st March	-	-	223	
				299
Discharged cured	-	-	219	}
Died	-	-	4	
In hospital, 31st March 1819	-	-	76	
				699

Mortality, one in 56.

Sir P. Dunn's Hospital.

Patients in hospital, 28th February 1819	-	-	88	
Admissions from 1st to 31st March 1819	-	-	200	
				288
Discharged cured	-	-	175	}
Died	-	-	13	
In hospital, 31st March 1819	-	-	100	
				288

Mortality, one in fifteen.

Whitworth Hospital.

Patients in hospital, 28th February 1819			30	
Admissions from 1st to 31st March 1819.	-	-	28	
				58
Discharged cured	-	-	32	}
Died	-	-	3	
In hospital, 31st March 1819	-	-	23	
				58

Mortality, one in nine.

Recapitulation.

Total of admissions during the month ending 31st March	1,702
Total number of deaths in ditto	99

Mortality, one in $17\frac{1}{3}$.—Average daily admissions, 58.

Note.—In order to institute an accurate comparison of the admissions of fever patients into the Dublin hospitals, for the months of February and March 1819, we must add three days to the former month, to make the total number of days alike; namely 31. Taking, therefore, the daily admissions at 51, we add three times that number, namely, 174, to 1,684, the total of admissions during February 1819, which forms a total, 1,858, or 156 more than the admissions during March 1819.

Return of Fever Patients admitted into the Dublin Hospitals for one month, commencing the 1st, and ending the 30th April 1819, both days inclusive.

House of Industry:

Patients in hospital 31st of March	-	-	447
Admissions from 1st to 30th April	{	City - 572	- - 459
		County 87	
			--- 906
Discharged cured	-	-	621 } - 906
Died	-	-	
In hospital, 30th April	-	-	
			248 }
Mortality, about one in $12\frac{1}{2}$.			

House of Recovery, Cork-street:

Patients in hospital, 31st of March	-	-	-	210
Admissions from 1st to 30th April	-	-	-	404
				614
Discharged cured	-	-	406	} - 614
Died	-	-	23	
In hospital, 30th April	-	-	185	
Mortality, about one in 18.				

Steevens's Hospital :

Patients in hospital, 31st March	-	-	-	76	
Admissions from 1st to 30th April	-	-	-	212	
Discharged cured	-	-	-		288
Died.	-	-	198		
In hospital, 30th April	-	-	11		
	-	-	79		288

Mortality, one in 19.

Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital :

Patients in hospital, 31st March	-	-	-	100	
Admissions from 1st to 30th April	-	-	-	207	
Discharged cured	-	-	-		307
Died	-	-	193		
In hospital, 30th April	-	-	11		
	-	-	103		307

Mortality about one in 19.

Whitworth Hospital, Drumcondra :

Patients in hospital, 31st March	-	-	-	23	
Admissions from 1st to 30th April	-	-	-	29	
Discharged cured	-	-	-		52
Died	-	-	35		
In hospital, 30th April	-	-	2		
	-	-	15		52

Mortality about one in 15.

Recapitulation :

Total of admissions during the month ended 30th April 1819	1,311
Total number of deaths in ditto	84
Mortality, about one in 16.—Average daily admissions, about 44.	

Note.—In order to institute an accurate comparison of the admissions of fever patients into the Dublin hospitals, for the months of March and April 1819, we must add one day to the latter month to make the total number of days alike. Taking, therefore, the daily admissions at 44, we add that number to 1,311, and then the total admissions during April 1819, amount to 1,355, or 347 less than the admissions during March 1819.

G. RENNY, M. D.

Right Hon. Charles Grant,
&c. &c. &c.

Medical Report of the Fever Hospitals of Stratford-on-Slaney and Baltinglass, from their commencement to the 27th of February 1819; County Wicklow.

Date.	Admis- sions.	Dis- charges	Deaths.	Date.	Admis- sions.	Dis- charges	Deaths.
1817;				1818:			
May	2	2	...	April	26	24	...
June	7	5	...	May	33	32	...
July	8	8	...	June	28	34	...
August	13	12	...	July	26	25	...
September	10	10	...	August	57	57	...
October	16	12	1	September	18	19	...
November	12	14	1	October	37	25	...
December	14	12	...	November	68	65	3
				December	54	37	2
1818:				1819:			
January	49	39	1	January	79	56	2
February	33	31	1	February	39	42	5
March	31	32	1				
50 patients in hospital 26th February 1819.				Total	660	593	17

* Stratford hospital being so crowded at this period, it was determined to get another hospital, which was accordingly established in Baltinglass.

During this present month (February 1819) the cases of fever that have occurred are generally of a more malignant sort than usual, as may be inferred by the number of deaths.

Fever Hospital, at Newtown Mount Kennedy, County Wicklow.

Patients received into hospital, from July 1817, to 28th February					
1818, from the parishes of Delgany and Newtown Mount Kennedy					
Deaths	-	-	-	-	6
From 1st March 1818, to 15th February 1819					
Deaths	-	-	-	-	10
In Hospital 16th February 1819	-	-	-	-	11

Fever Hospital, Wicklow.

Patients received into hospital from 6th September 1818, to					
1st February 1819					
Deaths	-	-	-	-	5

Hospital discontinued from want of funds.

Fever Hospital, Rathdrum, County Wicklow.

Admitted from August 12th 1818, to February 16th 1819					
Died	-	-	-	-	4
In hospital	-	-	-	-	*18

* These were all convalescent.

A Return of the Fever Hospital, at Bray, County Wicklow; from its first establishment on the 18th of September 1818, to the 8th April 1819.

		1818 :				1819 :				Total.
		Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	
Admitted	-	10	22	8	12	16	13	9	1	91
Discharged	-	3	15	19	7	16	12	12	...	84
Died	-	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	3
Now under treatment		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Fever Hospital, Arklow, County Wicklow.

Admitted in	Patients.	Admitted in	Patients	Admitted in	Patients.
1818 :		1818 :		1819 :	
January	7	July	12	January	19
February	5	August	13	February	21
March	4	September	18	March	16
April	5	October	25	to 8th April	4
May	12	November	23		
June	9	December	26	Total	219

Discharged cured, 212. Died 1. In hospital 8th April, 6.

Dispensary, Newtown Barry, County Wexford :

From February 1818 to February 28, 1819	-	91 Patients.
Died	-	1

Dispensary, Enniscorthy, County Wexford :

From February 1818 to February 17th. 1819				434 Patients.
Recovered	-	-	-	431 —
Died	-	-	-	3 —
Under cure	-	-	-	36 —

Fever Hospital, Gorey, County Wexford :

Date.	Admitted.	Died.	Date	Admitted.	Died.	Date.	Admitted.	Died.
1817 :			1818 :			1818 :		
November	4	—	March	6	—	September	17	—
December	16	—	April	6	1	October	16	—
			May	31	1	November	16	—
1818 :			June	23	—	December	14	1
January	17	—	July	16	1	1819 :		
February	14	—	August	16	—	January	25	—

237 Admitted. 4 Died. 214 Discharged. 18 In hospital.

Fever Hospital, Wexford :

Date.	Admitted	Discharged.	Died.
1815 :			
December	8	8	—
1816 :			
From January to March	28	19	2
- April to June 30th	17	18	1
- July to September 30th	9	13	—
- October to December 31st	11	10	1

(continued.)

Fever Hospital, Wexford :

Date.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
1817 :			
From January to March 31st	16	16	1
- April to June 30th -	27	19	—
- July to September 30th -	22	28	—
- October to December 31st -	25	24	—
1818 :			
- January to March 31st -	36	27	2
- April to June 30th -	35	35	1
- July to September 30th -	97	75	1
- October to December 31st -	90	78	4
1819 :			
- January to February 28th -	76	79	3
Total - -	497	449	16

Fever Hospital New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Date.	Admitted.	Dis- charged.	Died.
From July 1st 1809 to July 1810	28	24	2
1810 1811	81	75	5
1811 1812	59	40	1
1812 1813	59	56	3
1813 1814	44	40	3
1814 1815	107	97	3
1815 1816	76	80	3
1816 1817	174	161	...
1817 1818	317	270	6
Total	905	823	26

Fever Hospital, New Ross—(continued.)

Remaining under cure.	Pa- tients.	Admitted during Month.	Dis- charged cured.	Died.
1818,				
July 1st	51	95	73	1
August	72	87	91	1
September	67	82	79	...
October	70	86	91	...
November	65	65	68	1
December	61	46	62	1
1819,				
January	44	44	56	...
February	32	47	42	1
March	36	...	...	...
Total	498	552	562	5

Tabular view of the admissions and deaths of the Fever Hospital Kilkenny; commencing the 1st of March 1803, and ending the 1st of March 1816.

For one year from the 1st of March,		Admissions.			Deaths.		
		Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.
1803 to 1st March 1804	1804	39	34	73	2	2	4
1804	1805	43	37	80	6	4	10
1805	1806	35	34	69	3	2	5
1806	1807	23	33	56	1	1	2
1807	1808	40	41	81	2	3	5
1808	1809	39	57	96	2	3	5
1809	1810	54	62	116	4	3	7
1810	1811	64	71	135	5	6	11
1811	1812	66	87	153	1	5	6
1812	1813	78	78	156	2	3	5
1813	1814	79	104	183	2	2	4
1814	1815	112	124	236	8	5	13
1815	1816	119	130	249	5	7	12
1816	1817	85	77	162	11	6	17
Total		876	969	1,845	54	52	106

Quarterly Return of the Fever Hospital, Kilkenny; from
the 1st March 1817, to 1st March 1819.

For three months from	Admissions.			Deaths.		
	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.	Males.	Fe- males.	Total.
1817,						
1st March to 1st June	46	50	96	1	3	4
June Sept.	78	75	153	9	6	15
Septem. Dec.	180	199	379	13	7	20
1818,						
Decem. March	210	262	472	11	6	17
March June	233	297	530	19	14	33
June Sept.	294	303	597	16	14	30
Septem. Dec.	258	207	465	21	21	42
1819,						
Dec. March	171	161	332	13	13	33
Total	1,470	1,554	3,024	110	84	194

Recapitulation.

	Males.	Females.
Total number of patients admitted, from 1st March 1803 to 1st March 1817	876	969
Total number of patients admitted, from 1st March 1817 to 1st March 1819	1,470	1,554
Grand Total	2,346	2,523
Total males and females	4,869	
Total number of deaths, from the 1st March 1803 to 1st March 1817	54	52
Total number of deaths from the 1st March 1817 to 1st March 1819	110	84
Grand Total	164	136
Total males and females	300	

Average mortality of males, one in $14\frac{1}{3}$ nearly, } General average as 1 to $16\frac{1}{5}$.
 Average mortality of females, one in 18 nearly. }

Report of the Fever Hospital in the Barony of Portne-
hinch, in the Queen's County; from 25th July 1818,
to 28th February 1819.

Months.	Admitted.	Discharged	Died.	Months.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
1818 :				1818.			
July 25	20	...	...	December	76	79	3
August 31	27	19	1	1818.			
Septem. 31	86	70	1	January 31	56	63	1
October 31	102	2	5	February 28	40	35	3
Novem. 30.	108	122	2				
Remaining under treatment 29				Total	515	470	16

Kilcullen Fever Hospital, county of Kildare.

Patients admitted from 1st March to 1st June 1818 74; Died ...
 Patients admitted from 1st June to 1st September 1818 131; Died 3
 Patients admitted from 1st Septem. to 1st Dec. 1818 122; Died 1
 Patients admitted from 1st Dec. 1818 to 1st Mar. 1819 93; Died 1
 Total admitted 420. Died 5. Remaining in hospital 26.

Report of the Naas Fever Hospital, county of Kildare.

Admitted from 10th March 1818 to 10th March 1819, 427.

Discharged cured 400; Died 13; In hospital 14; Total 427.

Of the deaths five were Conaught men, who had been lying in the fields under the ditches for many days previous to admission, at which time they were in a dying state.

Return of the Fever Hospital Tullamore, King's County.

Admitted from 15th July 1817 to 31st July 1818	-	237
Died	-	12
Admitted from 31st July 1818 to 5th March 1819	-	140
Died	-	4

Remaining in hospital, 9 convalescent.

Return of Parsons-town Fever Hospital, King's County; from 21st August 1817, to 28th February 1819.

Date.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
From 21st August to 1st October 1817,	32	16	...
1st October Nov.	26	23	1
November Decem.	30	17	1
Dec. 1817 to { Jan. } 1818,	25	18	2
January Feb.	24	27	1
February March	24	29	2
March April	19	17	2
April May	20	21	5
May June	27	21	2
June July	27	16	...
July August	42	36	...
August Septem.	20	21	...
September October	27	35	...
October Novem.	28	24	...
November Decem.	22	24	...
Dec. 1818 to { Jan. } 1819,	11	17	1
January Feb.	15	12	...
February March	6	18	1
Total	425	392	18

King's County.

Return of Extern Patients, under Medical treatment;
from 21st August 1817, to 28th February 1818;
Parsons-town.

	Under Treatment.	Cured.	Died.
From 21st August - to 1st October 1817	24	18	...
1st October - to 1st November ...	22	14	1
November - December ...	36	14	...
December - January 1818	24	23	2
January - February ...	17	22	...
February - March ...	22	23	...
March - April ...	26	19	...
April - May ...	28	29	...
May - June ...	18	26	...
June - July ...	19	24	...
July - August ...	30	28	...
August - September ...	15	19	...
September - October ...	12	16	...
October - November ...	12	7	...
November - December ...	7	15	...
December - January 1819	4	12	...
January - February ...	7	11	...
February - March ..	1	1	...
Total ..	34	321	3

Dispensary, Killucan, County Westmeath.

Months	Admitted.	Died.	Months.	Admitted.	Died.	Months.	Admitd.	Died.
1817:			1818:			1818:		
August 27	10	—	April	61	1	October	10	—
September	21	—	May	33	—	November	26	—
October	40	—	June	45	1	December	15	1
November*	28	1	July	34	—			
1818:						1819:		
January	30	—	August	18	—	January	6	—
February	35	1	September	5	—	February	—	—
						March	10	—
						Total -	427	5

* Medical attendant ill in December 1817, and absent in March 1818.

Report of the Fever Hospital, Kells, County Meath;
from 19th September 1817, to 30th March 1819.

Date		Admitted.	Discharged	Died.
1817:				
From	19th September to 18th October -	50	29	1
-	19th October to 18th November -	31	36	—
-	19th November - December -	29	24	—
1818:				
-	December - January -	20	17	1
-	January - February -	14	20	—
-	February - March -	13	5	—
-	March - April -	10	14	—
-	April - May -	19	20	—
-	May - June -	27	27	1
-	June - July -	26	22	—
-	July - August -	28	27	—
-	August - September -	30	30	3
-	September - October -	25	25	1
-	October - November -	20	20	3
-	November - December -	14	17	—
1819:				
-	December - January -	17	10	1
-	January - February -	6	16	2
-	February - March -	7	4	—
-	March to 30th March -	3	3	—
Total - -		389	366	13

A Monthly Report of the Dundalk Fever Hospital; commencing 22d August 1817, the day on which the Hospital was established.

Date.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died.
Sept. 22d 1817 :	102	48	4
October -	156	122	8
November	101	94	7
December	79	92	2
1818 :			
January {	—	—	—
February {			
March {			
April {			
May {			
June {			
Return deficient.			
July 22d -	52	47	1
August -	64	64	—
September -	44	57	1
October -	43	36	1
November -	34	33	—
December -	40	39	2
Total	715	632	26

Receipts:

Received from Government on 18th October 1817	-	75	0	0
Do. do. 11th December	-	50	0	0
Private Suhscription to 22 February 1819	-	577	6	10
County presentment	-	70	0	0
Received from Government 8th June 1818	-	75	0	0

£.847 6 10

In hospital 1st January 1819	-	20	}	-	-	55
Admitted to 19th February	-	35				
Discharged	-	40	}			
Died	-	—				
In hospital 19 February	-	15	}			

RECAPITULATION.

Total number of Patients admitted to the Hospitals, in each of the Provinces, together with the deaths in hospitals, from the commencement of the epidemic fever to the time of the inspection; as extracted from the Reports of the Provincial Medical Inspectors, and here added by the Editors of this work.

MUNSTER.

Places.	Total number of Patients admitted.	Total number of Patients died.
Waterford .	4721	207
Cappoquin .	146	3
Lismore . .	235	6
Tallow . .	207	7
Youghal . .	623	23
Middleton .	74	2
Cork . .	16672	513
Bandon . .	1178	62
Mallow . .	1287	109
Killarney .	1347	21
Tralee . .	855	14
Limerick , .	6743	427
Tipperary .	236	28
Cashel . .	629	47
Cahir . .	772	27
Templemore .	91	4
Carrick-on-Suir .	961	30
Clonmell .	2775	154
Total in Munster Fever Hospitals .	59,552	1684

Proportion of deaths to admissions in the hospitals of Munster, as 1 to

$$23 \frac{820}{1684}$$

CONAUGHT.

Places.	Total number of Patients admitted.	Total number of Patients died.
Galway . . .	309	9
Monivae . . .	455	40
Tuam . . .	304	7
Gort . . .	400	30
Ennis . . .	545	33
Boyle . . .	882	67
Westport . . .	657	13
Castlebar . . .	54	3
Killala . . .	306	3
Sligo . . .	789	26
Carrick-on-Shannon	790	13
Mohill . . .	1957	53
Total in Conaught Fe- ver Hospitals .	7448	297

Proportion of deaths to admissions in the hospitals of Conanght, as 1 to
 $25 \frac{23}{297}$

N. B. The admissions to the hospitals of Strokestown, Ballinrobe, Hollymount, and Kilmaine, have been omitted, as the number which died was not returned, and the comparison between the total admissions and deaths would have been rendered inaccurate by the insertion. For the same reason, the return from Fermoy is omitted in the recapitulation of the Munster report.

ULSTER.

Places.	Total number of patients admitted.	Total number of patients died.
Newry . . .	1494	41
Belfast . . .	2537	146
Lisburn . . .	469	24
Randalstown . . .	299	16
Armagh . . .	163	11

(continued.)

RECAPITULATION.
ULSTER.—*continued.*

Places.	Total number of patients admitted.	Total number of patients died.
Monaghan .	1037	51
Cookstown .	168	8
Kildress .	190	16
Dungannon .	211	9
Strabane .	585	21
Total in Ulster Fever Hospitals .	7153	343

Proportion of deaths to admissions in the hospitals of Ulster as 1 to 20 $\frac{293}{343}$

LEINSTER.

Places.	Total number of patients ad- mitted.	Total number of patients died.
Dublin	35,251*	1618
Stratford on Slaney and Baltinglass	660	17
Newtown Mt. Kennedy	357	16
Wicklow	203	5
Rathdrum .	350	4
Bray . .	91	3
Arklow .	219	1
Newtown Barry	91	1
Enniscorthy .	434	3
Gorey .	237	4
Wexford .	497	16
New Ross .	989	11
Kilkenny .	3186	211
Portneehinch .	515	16
Kilcullen .	420	5
Naas .	427	13
Tullamore .	377	16
Parsonstown .	749	21
Killucan .	427	5
Kells .	389	13
Dundalk .	715	26
Total in Leinster Fever Hospitals	46,584	2,025

Proportion of deaths to admissions in the hospitals of Leinster as 1 to 23 $\frac{9}{2025}$

* This number includes the admissions to Feb. 28th, 1819, only.

Total in the Provinces.

N. B.—Ennis, though situated in Munster, was included in Conaught for the purpose of dividing equally the duty of inspection, and is here so arranged, but this will not affect materially the general result.

Places.	Patients admitted.	Patients died.	Proportion of deaths to admissions.
Munster .	39,552	1684	1 to $23\frac{820}{1684}$
Conaught .	7,448	297	1 to $25\frac{23}{297}$
Ulster .	7,153	343	1 to $20\frac{293}{343}$
Leinster .	46,584	2025	1 to $23\frac{9}{2025}$
Total .	100,737	4349	...

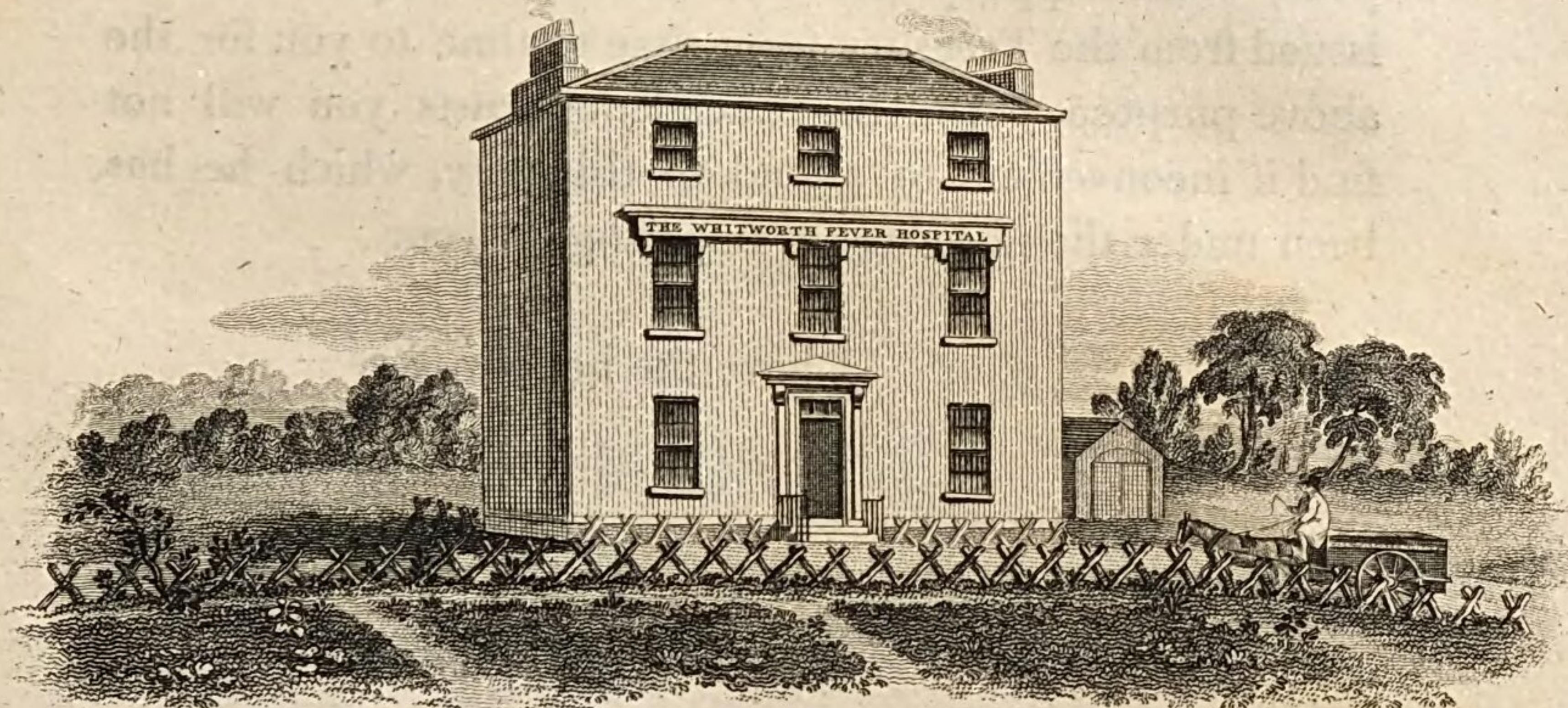
Proportion of deaths to admissions in the hospitals of the four provinces taken together, as 1 to $23\frac{710}{4349}$.

Total in the Province

N. B.—These figures are given in the present form, and are not the result of any revision, and are not to be taken as representing the actual state of the population, but as a basis for comparison.

Province	Total	Male	Female
Albany	10,000	5,000	5,000
Columbia	10,000	5,000	5,000
Delaware	10,000	5,000	5,000
District of Columbia	10,000	5,000	5,000
Florida	10,000	5,000	5,000
Georgia	10,000	5,000	5,000
Illinois	10,000	5,000	5,000
Indiana	10,000	5,000	5,000
Iowa	10,000	5,000	5,000
Kansas	10,000	5,000	5,000
Kentucky	10,000	5,000	5,000
Louisiana	10,000	5,000	5,000
Maine	10,000	5,000	5,000
Massachusetts	10,000	5,000	5,000
Michigan	10,000	5,000	5,000
Minnesota	10,000	5,000	5,000
Mississippi	10,000	5,000	5,000
Missouri	10,000	5,000	5,000
Montana	10,000	5,000	5,000
Nebraska	10,000	5,000	5,000
Nevada	10,000	5,000	5,000
New Hampshire	10,000	5,000	5,000
New Jersey	10,000	5,000	5,000
New Mexico	10,000	5,000	5,000
New York	10,000	5,000	5,000
North Carolina	10,000	5,000	5,000
North Dakota	10,000	5,000	5,000
Ohio	10,000	5,000	5,000
Oklahoma	10,000	5,000	5,000
Oregon	10,000	5,000	5,000
Pennsylvania	10,000	5,000	5,000
Rhode Island	10,000	5,000	5,000
South Carolina	10,000	5,000	5,000
South Dakota	10,000	5,000	5,000
Tennessee	10,000	5,000	5,000
Texas	10,000	5,000	5,000
Vermont	10,000	5,000	5,000
Virginia	10,000	5,000	5,000
Washington	10,000	5,000	5,000
West Virginia	10,000	5,000	5,000
Wisconsin	10,000	5,000	5,000
Wyoming	10,000	5,000	5,000
Total	1,000,000	500,000	500,000

Proportion of deaths to population in the Province of the United States, 1890.



SECTION V.

No. I.—OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS.

DUBLIN CASTLE, SEPT. 30TH, 1817.

To Dr. Renny, William Disney, Esq., and the Rev. James Horner,

GENTLEMEN,

I am commanded by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint you, that his Excellency has been pleased to constitute you a committee to examine into and report to his Ex-

cellency upon the several applications, which shall be made to government for pecuniary aid, from towns and districts where contagious fever prevails amongst the poor, and to appropriate such sums of money as shall be issued from the Treasury from time to time to you for the above purpose. And his Excellency trusts you will not find it inconvenient to attend to this duty, which he has been under the necessity of imposing on you.

I have the honour, &c.

R. PEEL.

No. II.

REPORT

FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE

OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ON THE

CONTAGIOUS FEVER IN IRELAND.

THE Select Committee appointed to inquire into the state of Ireland, as to the prevalence of contagious fever in that part of the United Kingdom, and to investigate the causes, temporary and permanent, which have led to the increased progress of this destructive malady during the last and present year, and to report the same, with their observations thereupon, to the House; and also to report such measures, remedial and preventive, as may seem most efficacious to arrest its further extension, to guard, as far as human foresight can provide, against its recurrence, and to secure adequate means of support to the establishments destined for the relief of the diseased;—

HAVE considered it their duty, in proceeding in the task allotted to them, to pursue the course which the order of reference has pointed out, of ascertaining, in the first place, as far as they were enabled to do, the state of Ireland, as to the increased prevalence of fever during the last and present year; the period from whence the commencement of that increase may be dated, in different parts of that country; the extent to which it has proceeded, and the present condition, whether of diminution or increase of the malady in different districts; together with their reasons for believing that such diminution or increase may be progressive, or that the disease has assumed a more permanent character.

The great increase of this malady may, we think, be dated pretty generally through the island from the spring of 1817; in some places commencing with the months of March or April, in others, not until July, and even August. The reports of the fever hospitals of Cork and Waterford, clearly trace the great increase of fever in those cities to a period much earlier; in Cork as far back as the autumn of 1816; in Waterford to January 1817. We advert to these reports particularly, because, as far as respects these large and populous cities, they furnish, in detail, the most ready means of judging accurately as to the progress and extent of the disease, from the monthly tables of admissions and deaths which are annexed to them. From Belfast also, we have the monthly returns of that fever hospital, in which the material increase is noted as commencing with the month of August. Of Limerick, where the disease appears to have raged very violently, we only know that nearly 2,600 fever patients have been under cure in the hospitals during the last year, and 794 to the 5th of April of the present year. With respect to Dublin, the very accurate and detailed report of the Medical Board, presented to the Lord Lieutenant on

the 16th of March last, which we have given in the Appendix, together with several other documents, shows the great and rapid weekly increase of fever in the Capital from the 1st September 1817, when the entire number of fever patients in all the hospitals amounted to 218, to the 28th February 1818, when it had risen to 1,001, and on the 14th of March to 1,074, making an aggregate of admissions into all the Dublin hospitals, which from time to time had been fitted up for their reception, of 7,451, during a period of seven months. This report evinces also the anxious and laudable care and solicitude with which the Irish government has supplied medical and other assistance and accommodation to the diseased, in the Metropolis. Their attention however, has been extended to other parts of Ireland, as will appear from the following advertisement published the 30th of September 1817:—

“ Dublin Castle, 30th September 1817.

“ Several applications for assistance having been made, to the Lord Lieutenant, from districts of this country, wherein contagious fever is still prevalent; and His Excellency being anxious to co-operate with those who are making local efforts to check the progress of infection, and to administer to the wants of the poorer classes of the inhabitants who are suffering from fever, He has appointed a committee of gentlemen of this city to meet at the Medical Board Office, for the purpose of receiving and reporting upon such applications.

“ The interference of Government must necessarily be limited to those cases wherein it shall appear, from written documents, that fever is still prevalent to an unusual extent, and that hospitals have been opened, or accom-

modation provided for the relief of the sick, by means of subscriptions of the wealthier part of the community.

“ In aid of such subscriptions, and on the recommendation of the committee above-mentioned, the Lord Lieutenant will direct pecuniary aid to be granted, to be applied strictly in counteracting the effects and checking the progress of infectious disease; and apportioned in amount, according to the exigency of each particular case.

“ Applications, accompanied by documents, stating the number of sick accommodated, the means provided for their relief, and other particulars of this nature, addressed to “ The Committee, No. 5, Parliament-street.” may be forwarded by post, under cover, to the Chief Secretary, Dublin Castle.

(Signed) ROBERT PEEL.”

Your Committee are strongly impressed with an opinion that public aid should still continue to be extended, according to the judgment of the executive government, on the terms on which it was offered by this advertisement; and that powers should be vested in the Government, by Parliament, for that purpose.

Of the extent to which the disease has prevailed, the melancholy details which we have already given, may in some degree enable the house to judge, when we add, that in Cork the number of Fever Patients is stated during the year ending 1st December 1817, to have amounted to more than 8,200, and from that time to the 29th of March last to 3,300: the deaths during the preceding period have been to the number of admissions as 1 to 26. In Waterford in 1817, the number of admissions was

more than 900. In Belfast, from May 1817 to April 1818, 1,450. In many parts of the country too it appears to have prevailed very extensively, particularly in the vicinity of Moate, Boyle, and Navan, where, from a limited population, many hundreds appear to have been afflicted, and in Armagh above two hundred to have been sick at one time. As to the extent to which it has affected the country parishes we annex the only account received in detail; that of Lough Gall, near Armagh, where of a population of 8,000, 1,009 have been ill, and the deaths as one in ten. From the want of Dispensaries or Hospitals generally dispersed, we have no detailed accounts of a very large part of Ireland, nor any account whatever of some entire counties, as Mayo and Donegal, except a statement that in this latter county it has prevailed very considerably; we can however have no doubt, that where no such establishments existed, great numbers of the poor must have undergone very great sufferings. One of the causes to which the progress of the disease is very generally ascribed, the crowds of wretched mendicants, by whom the country has been traversed in all directions, affords a melancholy proof and illustration of this opinion.

The mortality has been much greater among the higher ranks of society, whom the disease has attacked, than in the labouring classes; and the physicians and other medical attendants, as well as the clergy of different denominations, have felt its destructive force in much more than an ordinary proportion, as the discharge of duty, uniting with the claims of humanity, exposed them peculiarly to its visitation.

The extent of the disease seems in general in some degree diminished, as far as we at present possess information; in Ulster very considerably indeed. Whether the diminution may or may not be progressive, and in what

degree, it is very difficult to form any judgment; more especially as it has frequently abated for a time to break out with renewed violence; in the cities of Cork and Limerick too, the numbers seem to be on the increase. Of the causes, to which we are to trace a malady so distressing and extensive, we cannot convey our opinion more clearly than by adopting the forcible expressions used by the Medical Board, dated 1st May last, and transmitted by Dr. Renny, which are as follows:—"As the health of the country at large, is an object of great interest, I think it right to state, that by reports now before me, of a late date, from the Staff Medical Officers superintending the provinces of Leinster, Munster, Connaught, and Ulster, as well as from a variety of letters written by respectable medical correspondents, and connected with the Army, it appears that Typhus fever is generally on the decline. All these authorities, however, concur in dwelling on the continuance of the privations, under which the lower orders in Ireland have suffered so severely for some time past, and to which the origin of the existing epidemic is very much owing; and that numbers of wandering beggars are at present roaming over the face of the country, and appear on the increase.

It is quite evident, therefore, that Fever will prevail, to a greater or lesser degree, while these predisposing causes continue to operate so extensively, and that we must look beyond medical judgment and medical exertions, for palliating or removing the present heavy affliction. The wisdom and energy of the Legislature, and of the Government, may perhaps do something in this matter; but it is very difficult to find an effectual remedy for poverty, the cause and continuance of which are mainly to be ascribed to a rapidly increasing population, whilst the means of procuring productive labour and em-

ployment for the multitude, instead of advancing with some proportion, as yet remains nearly stationary.”—

But until some adequate means can be devised, for the removal of those evils, it becomes our duty to suggest such measures, as appear to us immediately necessary to check their progress, to mitigate their severity, as well as to secure to the institutions destined to their relief, due and adequate protection; and with this view we offer to the House the following Recommendations.

1st. That the subscribers to Fever Hospitals be incorporated in like manner, and with like powers as the subscribers to Houses of Industry in Ireland now are.

2ndly. That the General Dispensary Act should be amended, and that the powers now possessed by Grand Juries of counties to present for the support of such establishments, be extended to counties of cities, and counties of towns.

3rdly. That upon proof of a sum subscribed, and paid by the subscribers, for the erection or hiring of, or attaching to any Dispensary a House, to be applied to the reception of Fever Patients, and upon medical certificate of the necessity of providing accommodation for such patients, it shall be lawful for the Grand Jury to present a sum, equal in amount to double the sum actually raised by subscription; and such further sum annually for the support of the houses so hired or erected, as shall not exceed double the amount of the subscription actually raised for their support.

4thly. That it is highly desirable that some exemptions from the Hearth and Window Taxes should be granted to lodging houses, under certain regulations, so

calculated as to secure the benefit of such exemptions to the persons who lodge therein.

5thly. That it is expedient, in those cases wherein there is no Fever Hospital at present, that the Grand Jury should have a power of presenting such sum as they may think necessary for the construction of One Fever Hospital in each county, in such situation as to the Grand Jury may seem most desirable :

The Lord Lieutenant to have a power of issuing the sum necessary for the construction of the Fever Hospital, to be repaid by instalments within the period of six years :

In cases where there is a Fever Hospital at present, the Grand Jury may present a sum for enlarging or altering such hospital, if deemed necessary ; the sum to be repaid in like manner.

6thly. That in order to preserve the country from the spreading of contagion, it is recommended, that on the Fever appearing in any city, town or district, under such circumstances as to warrant the apprehension of its more extended progress, it would be proper that such city, town or district be enabled to hold a meeting under the authority of one or more magistrates, and to certify to the Lord Lieutenant the necessity of constituting in such district a Board of Health, to exist during the continuance of such emergency, to be composed of the members of Dispensary Establishments, or Fever Hospitals, or a certain number of the more respectable parishioners and medical men of such district, where no Fever Hospital or Dispensary exists ; who should be armed, temporarily, with more enlarged powers to abate and remove nui-

sances, and to check contagion, than are extended to magistrates at present.

7thly. That the powers to be intrusted, temporarily, to such Boards of Health be as follows :

That they should have power to cleanse all streets, lanes, yards and houses, and to remove from thence all nuisances prejudicial to health ; to cleanse, fumigate and whitewash infected houses, and to destroy or cleanse infected beds and bedding, to open windows, and to take such other measures for ventilation as may be absolutely necessary :

That wherever Fever Hospitals, or places for the reception of the diseased, are already established, to remove on certificate of one medical person, to such Fever Asylum, any fever patient who shall not be certified by a medical person to be already under such care, and placed in such circumstances as to prevent the communication of contagion, so far as can be foreseen, to any other member of his family, or his neighbours :

To have powers to affix to any house where the disease prevails, a mark or sign, denoting that some of the inhabitants are infected with Fever.

The powers and the constitution of such Board, to be considered as entirely temporary, and to cease with the emergency on which they are founded.

8th May 1818.

No. III.

FEVER COMMITTEE OFFICE, 5, PARLIAMENT-STREET,

Dublin, 23d May, 1818.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

The House of Commons having voted an additional sum of money for the relief and suppression of contagious fever in Ireland, the committee appointed by Government to receive and report upon applications on the subject, think it necessary to give this public notice thereof, that the documents required by the "circular" letter of the Right Hon. Robert Peel, dated Dublin-Castle, 30th September, 1817, may be transmitted as therein directed, from such districts as still continue to be afflicted with fever, in order that no time may be lost in endeavouring to carry into effect the benevolent intentions of the legislature.

By order,

MATHEW T. BYRNE,

Secretary to the Committee.

No. IV.

SUMS distributed by order of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, to towns and districts where contagious fever prevailed amongst the poor, under the direction of the Fever Committee.

MUNSTER.

<i>Places.</i>			<i>Places.</i>		
		<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>			<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>
		£.			£.
Ardnaguhy	-	40	Cashel	-	40
Askeaton	-	20	Do.	-	30
Ballingarry	-	30	Do.	-	50
Ballytore	-	50	Castlemagner	-	50
Bandon	-	100	Castletown Roche	-	50
Do.	-	100	Charleville	-	40
Buttevant	-	25	Do.	-	50
Do.	-	50	Do.	-	30
Do.	-	40	Churchtown	-	30
Cahir	-	40	Do.	-	30
Do.	-	40	Clogheen	-	40
Do.	-	80	Clonakilty	-	50
Do.	-	60	Clonmell	-	75
Cappoquin	-	30	Do.	-	75
Do.	-	40	Do.	-	75
Do.	-	30	Do.	-	175
Carrick-on-Suir	-	50	Do.	-	300
Do.	-	75	Cork	-	100
Do.	-	75	Do.	-	200

MUNSTER—*Concluded.*

<i>Places</i>			<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>	<i>Places.</i>			<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>
			£.				£
Cork	-	-	300	Do.	-	-	30
Do.	-	-	400	Do.	-	-	50
Cove	-	-	50	Do.	-	-	50
Doneraile	-	-	30	Do.	-	-	50
Do.	-	-	50	Middleton	-	-	30
Drumtariff	-	-	50	Millstreet	-	-	50
Dungarvan	-	-	40	Mitchelstown	-	-	75
Ennis	-	-	100	Do.	-	-	75
Do.	-	-	100	Monkstown	-	-	50
Do. (Mrs. Cook)	-	-	20	Do.	-	-	30
Fermoy	-	-	75	Do.	-	-	30
Fethard	-	-	40	Nenagh	-	-	40
Glanworth	-	-	60	Newbridge	-	-	12
Kanturk	-	-	50	Rathcormuck	-	-	40
Do.	-	-	40	Roscrea	-	-	50
Do.	-	-	60	Do.	-	-	50
Kildorerey	-	-	50	Do.	-	-	50
Kilfinnan	-	-	30	Do.	-	-	30
Do.	-	-	20	Scariff	-	-	50
Do.	-	-	30	Tallow	-	-	30
Do.	-	-	20	Do.	-	-	30
Killarney	-	-	40	Templemore	-	-	40
Do.	-	-	40	Tipperary	-	-	40
Do.	-	-	80	Do.	-	-	60
Kilrush	-	-	40	Tramore	-	-	40
Kilworth	-	-	50	Waterford	-	-	100
Limerick	-	-	100	Do.	-	-	100
Do.	-	-	200	Do.	-	-	200
Do.	-	-	500	Do.	-	-	300
Lismore	-	-	40	Do.	-	-	300
Do.	-	-	30	Whitechurch	-	-	50
Listowel	-	-	30	Youghal	-	-	30
Macrump	-	-	30	Do.	-	-	30
Mallow	-	-	50	Do.	-	-	60

CONAUGHT.

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>
	£.		£.
Boyle	40	Mohill	40
Bumlin, Kilglass, and Tarmonbarry	30	Do.	30
Castlebar	40	Newport	100
Crossboyne and Kilcol- man	30	Do.	150
Galway	100	Newportpratt	20
Do.	50	Sligo	75
Hollymount	40	Do.	75
Loughrea	50	Do.	100
Do.	30	Do.	150
Do.	50	Westport	75
		Do.	125

ULSTER.

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums ad- vanced.</i>
	£.		£.
Aghoghill	20	Ballymacarret	40
Ahaneenshin, Con- wall and Leek	30	Do.	20
Allsaints and Faugh- boyne	30	Ballymena	40
Antrim	30	Ballymoney	30
Ardkeen	20	Ballyphillip	50
Armagh	80	Balteagh	25
Ashfield	40	Banbridge	40
Aughanloo	30	Belfast	100
Bailieborough	40	Do.	100
Ballybay	50	Do.	100
Do.	30	Belturbet	50
Ballyclug	30	Bush Mills	40
Ballygawley	40	Caledon	40
		Carndonagh	30
		Carrickfergus	40

ULSTER—continued.

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis-tributed.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis-tributed.</i>
	£.		£. s. d.
Do. - -	30	Jamlatfinlagan -	30
Caslerahan -	40	Kildress -	30
Cavan -	50	Do. - -	15
Do. - -	30	Kilglass, Rathreagh	30
Do. - -	40	Killersherding .	56 17 6
Do. - -	50	Killisandra -	50
Clondehorky and		Kilmacrenan -	30
Tullyagnish -	40	Killough -	30
Clones - -	40	Killyleagh -	30
Do. - -	40	Knockbreda -	30
Clonmany -	30	Larne - -	40
Clontibert -	50	Do. - -	15
Cookstown -	40	Letterkenny -	30
Do. - -	40	Lisburn -	50
Cootehill, Drnmgoon	50	Do. - -	30
Do. - -	30	Do. - -	50
Cranfield and Duneane	40	Do. - -	70
Culduff and Cloncha	50	Londonderry -	100
Do. - -	10	Do. - -	20
Cumber - -	40	Do. - -	20
Desertegny -	25	Do. - -	50
Donaghmore -	20	Loughgall -	30
Downpatrick -	70	Lurgan -	50
Dromore -	40	Magherafelt -	60
Do. - -	60	Do. - -	60
Dundrum -	50	Mevagh -	20
Dungannon -	40	Moirá -	20
Dungiven -	30	Monaghan -	30
Dromaragh -	15	Do. - -	60
Ematris -	40	Do. - -	80
Enniskillen -	50	Do. - -	80
Fahan lower -	30	Do. - -	50
Do. - -	20	Moville, upper and	
Faughanvale -	25	lower -	60
Forkhill -	30	Mount Nugent -	50
Glasslough -	15	Muff - -	30
Glendermott -	25	New Bliss -	50
Hillsborough -	40	Do. - -	40
Do. - -	20	New Town Limavady	30
Holywood (co. Down)	40	New Town Ards -	30
Do. - -	20	Newry -	75
Jamlaghtard -	30	Do. - -	50

ULSTER—*continued.*

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>
	£.		£.
Do. - -	50	Shircock -	50
Do. - -	95	Stewartstown -	50
Do. - -	100	Do. - -	15
Omagh - -	40	Strabane -	50
Randalstown -	50	Do. - -	20
Do. - -	50	Do. - -	50
Do. - -	50	Tullylish -	25
Raphoe - -	50	Tynan - -	50
Rathfriland -	50	Virginia -	40

LEINSTER.

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>
	£.		£.
Abbyleix -	50	Drogheda -	75
Ardee and Clankeen	50	Do. - -	25
Arklow - -	40	Do. - -	25
Do. - -	60	Dublin Whitworth Fever	
Athlone - -	50	Hospital -	200
Attanna - -	30	Do. - -	200
Ballynakill -	50	Dundalk -	75
Ballytore -	50	Do. - -	50
Bannow and Kilkevin	40	Do. - -	75
Boby, Shanahoe and		Dundrum -	50
Scotrath -	30	Durrow -	50
Carlow - -	50	Enniscorthy -	40
Do. - -	80	Do. - -	50
Do. - -	70	Do. - -	50
Castlepollard -	50	Fethard -	50
Churchtown -	15	Finglass -	50
Clonaslee -	50	Gorey - -	50
Clondalkin -	75	Do. - -	50
Delgany and Newtown		Granard -	100
Mount Kennedy	40		

LEINSTER—*continued.*

<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>	<i>Places.</i>	<i>Sums dis- tributed.</i>
	£.		£.
Hacketstown -	40	Old Castle -	50
Do. -	50	Parsonstown -	30
Irishtown, Ringsend, and Sandymount	30	Do. -	30
Kells -	30	Do. -	40
Do. -	20	Portarlinton -	30
Do. -	50	Rathdown -	30
Kilcullen -	30	Rathfarnham -	30
Do. -	40	Do. -	30
Kilkenny -	50	Do. -	30
Do. -	50	Shinrone -	40
Do. -	150	Do. -	40
Do. -	150	Do. -	50
Killeagh -	40	Stratford upon Slaney	30
Killermogh -	20	Do. -	15
Loughcrew -	40	Do. -	20
Lucan -	30	Do. -	55
Malahide -	50	Do. -	50
Moate -	80	Do. -	50
Moylagh -	40	Do. -	100
Mullinavat -	75	Tintern -	30
Naas -	50	Tullamore -	30
Newpass -	15	Wexford -	100
Do. -	15	Wicklow, together with	
New Ross -	75	the parishes of Derra-	
Do. -	75	lossory, Killiskey, Dun-	
Do. -	150	ganstown, Glenealy	
		and Castlemacadam.	300

No. V.

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO OCTAVO

GEORGII III. REGIS. CAP. XLVII.

An Act to establish Fever Hospitals, and to make other Regulations for relief of the suffering poor, and for preventing the increase of infectious fevers in Ireland.

[30th May 1818.]

WHEREAS fevers of an infectious nature have for some time past greatly prevailed among the poor in several parts of Ireland, whereby the health and prosperity of the whole country have been considerably endangered; and it is expedient that hospitals should be established for the relief of sufferers in such cases, and that regulations should be made to prevent, as effectually as possible, the increase of infection, as well at present as on future occasions; and such good purposes are most likely to be promoted by creating corporations in every county at large, and every county of a city or county of a town in Ireland, who may execute the powers and trusts hereinafter particularly expressed: Be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the ad-

vice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this Act there shall be, and one body politic and corporate is hereby created and erected in every county, and in every county of a city, and in every county of a town in Ireland; which shall consist, in every such county, of the archbishop or bishop whose diocese or any part of whose diocese shall extend into such county, of the representatives in Parliament for such county, of all the justices of the peace commissioned and acting as such in such county; and in every county of a city or county of a town, such corporation shall consist also of the chief magistrate, sheriffs, and recorder of such county of a city or town, likewise of the representative or representatives in parliament (if any,) and of the justices of the peace for such county of a city or town, all for the time being, and also of such persons as are hereinafter mentioned; which corporation shall be called by the name of “The president and assistants of the Fever Hospital for [

]” applying to every of them the name of its proper county, city, or town; and all the said corporations shall have perpetual duration and succession, and may sue and be sued in all courts of justice by those names respectively, and shall have a common seal, and shall meet at and adjourn to such times and places within their counties, cities, or towns respectively, as they shall think fit; save only that the said corporations shall meet, and they are hereby required respectively to meet, for the First Time, for the county of the city of Dublin, on the first day of July next after the passing of this Act, at the Sessions House of the said city, and for the several other counties, cities, and towns in Ireland, on the day (or, at their election, on the day next after the day) when the judges who shall hold the summer assizes next

after the passing of this Act, in and for the several counties, or either of such judges, shall depart from the town or place where the assizes shall be held, at the Hall or Session House respectively where the judges shall have sat for the business of the assizes; and at the First and every future meeting of the said corporations respectively, the archbishop or bishop, if present when the said corporations or quorums of them respectively shall assemble, shall take the chair, shall put every question, declare the majority of votes, and do all the duties of president or head of the corporation for that meeting; but if the archbishop or bishop shall not be present when the said corporations respectively shall first assemble, the representative in parliament for that county, county of a city, or county of a town, who shall first come on that day to the place of meeting, if both shall attend, and if not, the representative in parliament for that county, county of a city, or county of a town, who shall be present when the said corporations or quorums of them respectively shall assemble; and if the archbishop or bishop, or the representatives for such counties, cities, or towns respectively, or either of them, shall not attend in every county of a city and county of a town, the chief magistrate, or in his default, and in every county at large, the oldest justice of the peace who shall be present when the said corporations respectively or quorums of them shall first assemble, shall take the chair, and do all the duties of president or head of the corporation for that meeting; and the said corporations respectively shall be considered as assembled for the purpose of determining who shall be the president of that day, whenever five shall have come to the place of meeting at the time appointed for the first meeting of the said corporations respectively; and at all subsequent times after, whenever five of the said corporations shall have come to the place of the meeting at the respective times to be appointed for such

meetings; and every person qualified, or capable as aforesaid of presiding at the meetings of the said corporations, may, at all times after the aforesaid First Time appointed for the meeting of the said corporations, by notice in writing signed by him, to be posted at the proper assizes town, or at the Sessions House in the city of Dublin, six days at the least before the time of meeting, exclusive of the day of posting such notice and the day of meeting, convene the said corporations respectively to do all corporate acts, but no second notice signed by a different person shall supersede a former; of which corporations respectively Five shall always be a competent number to do all corporate acts; and the said corporations are hereby respectively authorized and empowered to elect, during good behaviour, such other persons, residing within their counties, cities, or towns respectively, as they shall think fit; and those also who shall contribute any sum not less than twenty pounds, or who shall subscribe and pay any annual sum not less than one guinea, to be applied to the charitable purposes of this Act, to be members of the said corporations respectively; and it shall be lawful for the said corporations respectively, and they are hereby authorized, to make bye-laws reasonable and consonant to the laws of the land, and to appoint standing committees for the purposes of this Act, to meet and act at certain place or places to be appointed in each county, city, or town; and it shall and may be lawful for the said corporations, and each of them respectively, and they are hereby authorized, empowered, and qualified, to accept or take by purchase, or by voluntary grant, or by devise, any lands, tenements, or hereditaments of inheritance, or for lives, not exceeding to any one of the said corporations the clear yearly value of five hundred pounds, any law to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding; but the corporation of any of the said counties, cities, or towns, shall at no time have a capacity to take

lands of inheritance, or for lives, of a greater value than as aforesaid, except in the case of eviction or determination of interest, in which case the said corporations respectively may make such new acquisition as aforesaid, not exceeding the clear annual value aforesaid; and it shall be lawful for the said corporations, and they are respectively hereby authorized, empowered, and qualified, to take all such donations in personal property as shall be made to them, and to accept of all leases for years of houses or lands, so as no such lease shall exceed twenty-one years; but every lease for years of lands or of a house to be made to any of the said corporations, exceeding that term, shall be void, except as hereinafter excepted.

II. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporations respectively, to take, over and above the five hundred pounds a year, and leases for years, which they are authorized to acquire as aforesaid, and such corporations respectively are hereby declared to be capable and qualified to take, by grant or by devise, any quantity of ground or land within their counties, cities, and towns respectively, not exceeding four roods, plantation measure, for the sites of houses to be built, and accommodations to be provided, for the reception of the helpless poor intended to be relieved under the provisions of this act; and also, that it shall and may be lawful for every archbishop and bishop in Ireland, and they are hereby respectively authorized and empowered, to grant any such portions of ground or land as aforesaid, out of the estates of their sees respectively, to the said corporations respectively, for the sites of such houses as aforesaid, for such estate or estates, either in fee, for lives renewable or not renewable, or for years, as they shall think fit, at such rent and fines as such archbishop or bishop shall think fit, or without any rent or fine if

such archbishop or bishop shall think fit; and that every such grant and lease shall be good and valid against such archbishop and bishop, and their successors respectively, without the concurrence of any other person or body of men; any thing in an Act made in the Parliament of Ireland in the tenth and eleventh years of the reign of the late King Charles the First, intituled "An Act for the preservation of the inheritance, rights, and profits of lands belonging to the Church and persons ecclesiastical," or any other law or usage in force in Ireland, to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporations, and they are hereby authorized, empowered, and required, to build or hire houses for hospitals in the several counties, counties of cities, and counties of towns, to be called "Fever hospitals for the relief of the poor being ill of fevers," as soon as such corporations shall be possessed of funds sufficient for those purposes, as plain, as durable, and at as moderate expense, as may be; and that all such hospitals be divided into Two Parts, of which one Part shall be allotted for such poor helpless men as shall be judged worthy of admission, and the other Part for the reception of such poor helpless women as shall be judged worthy of admission, and to furnish the said hospitals, and to admit into the same from time to time so many sick and helpless poor patients as the funds of such corporation shall admit of; and the said corporations respectively are hereby authorized and required to make bye-laws and orders for the admission and discharge of all such patients, and for the government of every such hospital, and to appoint masters, physicians, surgeons, apothecaries, nurses, and other fit persons and servants, to govern and take care of such hospitals and the patients therein, at reasonable and moderate salaries, allowances, and wages; and the said

corporations respectively are also hereby authorized to appoint treasurers without any salary, to receive such donations and rents as they shall respectively acquire or become entitled to; and the said corporations are hereby authorised and required to expend all such donations and rents in and for the charitable purposes required by this Act, and for the cure and relief of such patients, with the greatest care and economy, upon pain and peril that for any embezzlement or misapplication of or partiality in the disposal of any part of the revenue or property of the said corporations respectively, which any individuals of such corporations shall be respectively guilty of or concur in, every such individual shall be personally answerable by suit or information in the name of the King's Attorney General, on the relation of any person or persons, either in the Court of Chancery or Court of Exchequer in Ireland; and the said courts shall and are hereby required to hear and determine every such suit or information, and to award costs therein against the defendants, if found culpable as aforesaid; and in every such suit a relator of property and reputation shall be named, against whom costs shall be awarded to the defendant or defendants, if the suit, information, or complaint shall appear to be groundless.

IV. And whereas by an Act made in the forty-fifth year of his present Majesty's reign, entituled "An Act to amend and render more effectual an Act made in the Parliament of Ireland in the fifth year of his present Majesty, entituled 'An Act for erecting and establishing public infirmaries or hospitals in this kingdom,' certain provisions were made for enabling the grand jury to present certain sums to be raised on counties, for the promotion of local dispensaries, in manner in the said Act mentioned; be it enacted, That from and after the first day of September next, so much of the said recited Act as

relates to such local dispensaries shall be and the same is hereby repealed.

V. And be it further enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, whenever it shall appear to the grand jury of any county or county of a city or county of a town, that there has been actually received from private subscriptions or donations any sum or sums of money, since the preceding assizes, for the purpose of establishing or supporting a dispensary for furnishing medicine and affording medical or surgical aid to the poor of any city, town, or place within such county, it shall be lawful for such grand jury to present, to be raised of such county, or county of a city, or county of a town, and to be paid to the treasurer of such dispensary, a sum equal in amount to the sum or sums so received by such treasurer, to be applied under the direction of the subscribers, of any annual sum of not less than one guinea, or such committee of them, not fewer in number than five, as they shall appoint for that purpose at any general meeting of such subscribers, together with the monies so received by private subscription or donation, in providing medicines and medical and surgical aid for the poor of such place and its neighbourhood: Provided always, that in all cases where such dispensary shall have been actually established, and any money shall have been raised by presentment granted for the use of such dispensary, previous to such assizes, such treasurer shall lay before such grand jury an account of all receipts and disbursements up to the first of January or first of July (as the case may be) immediately preceding such assizes; and such treasurer shall also annex to such account a statement of all further sums of money which he shall have actually received from private subscriptions or donations for the support of such dispensary for the ensuing year; and the said account and statement shall be verified on the oath of

such treasurer, and shall be deemed sufficient documents whereon to ground such presentment; and in all cases where no sum of money shall have been granted as aforesaid previous to such assizes, such statement alone so verified shall be deemed a sufficient document whereon to ground such presentment, and in either case the sum or sums so stated to have been received shall form the first item to the debit of such treasurer in his account for the succeeding year, or such treasurer shall once in every year lay before such grand jury an account so verified of the receipts and disbursements of all sums received by him, either from private subscription or donation, or from presentment as aforesaid, for the use of such dispensary.

VI. And be it further enacted, That every person who shall subscribe and pay towards the establishment or maintenance of any such dispensary any sum not less than one guinea, shall be a member of the establishment of such local dispensary of such county of a city or county of a town for one year from the date of the payment thereof, for the management and direction of such dispensary.

VII. And be it further enacted, That whenever it shall be made appear, by statement on oath, to the grand jury of any county or county of a city or town, that there has been actually received from private subscriptions or donations any sum or sums of money for the purpose of erecting or hiring any house to be applied to the reception of fever patients, and either attached to and connected with any local dispensary or not, as the case may happen, and upon a certificate by one or more physicians that there is a necessity for providing accommodation for such patients, it shall and may be lawful for such grand jury to present to be raised on any such county at large, or on

any such county of a city or county of a town, as the case may be, any sum not exceeding double the amount of the sum or sums so raised by donation or subscription, and actually received by such treasurer, to be applied by the subscribers to such local dispensary, or such committee of them as aforesaid, together with the monies so received by private donation or subscription, in erecting or hiring and fitting up such house for poor fever patients in such manner as the said corporation or the said committee shall in their discretion deem most advisable; and it shall and may be lawful also for such grand jury of any such county, county of a city, or county of a town, from time to time to present any such further sum or sums as shall appear to such grand jury to be necessary or required for the support of houses for the reception of fever patients, whether the same shall have been established before or after the passing of this Act, not exceeding double the amount of the subscriptions or donations which, by the accounts of such treasurer verified on oath, shall appear to have been raised and actually received for the support of such houses; and such treasurer shall account in like manner and under such regulations as are herein before directed respecting dispensaries.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for any grand jury of any county, or county of a city, or county of a town, in which any fever hospital shall not have been erected before the passing of this Act, or in which it shall be made appear to the satisfaction of the grand jury that any fever hospital in such county, county of a city, or county of a town, requires to be enlarged, repaired, or rebuilt, to present, at any assizes for such county, county of a city or town, any sum or sums of money for the purpose of erecting and establishing, or hiring, repairing, and fitting up one fever hospital in any such county, county of a city or town

in which no such hospital shall have been previously established, or for the purpose of enlarging, repairing, rebuilding, or supporting any fever hospital which shall have been previously established, and to set forth in such presentment that the sum therein mentioned shall be raised and levied within the period of six years, by half-yearly or yearly instalments, and also to set forth in such presentment what part thereof shall be raised upon any barony or baronies in any such county, or on the county at large; and that the treasurer of such county, county of a city, or county of a town, shall from time to time, without further authority or presentment in that behalf, insert in his warrant at each assizes the portion or portions so set forth of the sum so presented; and the same shall be raised and levied in like manner from time to time, and with the like remedy in case of non-payment, as all other money directed by such warrant is by law to be levied; and when and so soon as such presentment shall have been duly certified by the acting clerk of the crown to the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, or his or their chief secretary, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors for the time being, to direct the amount of such sum of money so presented, or any part thereof, to be advanced out of the growing produce of the consolidated fund in Ireland, to the treasurer of such county, county of a city, or county of a town, to be applied for the purposes for which such presentment shall have been made, under such rules and regulations as to such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors shall seem fitting and expedient; and such money so advanced and paid to such treasurer shall be accounted for by him in like manner as any other monies received by him for the use of such county; and all securities given by him or on his behalf shall extend to such money; and such treasurer shall from time to

time pay to the collector of excise of the district in which such county, county of a city, or county of a town, all such sums as shall from time to time be received by him from the baronial or other collectors by virtue of the presentments on account of which such money shall have been advanced, until the whole sum advanced shall be repaid: Provided always, that if it shall so happen that any money shall be raised by virtue of any such presentment or presentments, which shall not be required for the purposes for which it shall be so raised, the same shall be carried to the credit generally of the county, or of the county of the town, or of the county of the city, whereon the same shall be levied, by the treasurer of such county, or county of a town, or county of a city respectively.

IX. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the grand jury of each and every county, county of a city, or county of a town in Ireland, to present to be raised on such county at large, or on such county of a city or county of a town, any sum not exceeding five hundred pounds in the year, over and above and exclusive of any sums which they are by law empowered to present for the support of houses of industry in Ireland, under an Act made in the eleventh and twelfth years of the reign of his present Majesty, entitled, "An act for badging such poor as shall be found unable to support themselves by labour, and otherwise providing for them, and for restraining such as shall be found able to support themselves by labour or industry from begging," or any other Act or Acts in force in Ireland at the time of the passing this Act; and the said sum, when so raised, shall be paid to the corporation of the said houses of industry in such county, county of a city or town respectively, and applied by the said corporation towards the support and maintenance of such house of

industry in such county, county of a city, or county of a town respectively.

X. And whereas it is expedient that effectual provision should be made for preventing the spreading of fevers or contagious disorders whenever such shall happen in any parts of Ireland, and that the powers requisite for that purpose should be exercised only during the emergency which may call for the same; be it therefore enacted, That whenever in any city, town, or district, any fever or contagious distemper shall appear or be known to exist among the poor inhabitants, it shall and may be lawful for any one or more magistrates, upon the requisition of five respectable householders, to convene a meeting of the magistrates and householders of such city, town, or district, and of the medical practitioners within the same, in order to examine into the circumstances attending such fever or contagious distemper, and the number of persons or families being sufferers thereby; and if it shall be the opinion of such meeting, and of one or more magistrates attending, that such fever or contagious distemper is of a nature to require particular attention and circumspection to prevent the increase of the contagion thereof, it shall be lawful for two or more magistrates authorized by such meeting to join in an application to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, to appoint a board of health within and for such city, town, or district; and it shall be lawful for such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland to appoint such board accordingly, to consist of not more than thirteen commissioners, to be selected from among the governors or members of the corporation of any infirmary or fever hospital, or other hospital, and from the parishioners and medical practitioners, to act within such city, town, or district, in such manner and under such

regulations as such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, or his or their Chief Secretary, shall from time to time order, direct, and appoint.

XI. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the commissioners so to be appointed for the forming such board of health, or any five of them, to give all such directions for the doing and performing all acts, matters, and things necessary for the preventing the communication of contagion, and for restoring the sick to health, as shall to such commissioners seem necessary and expedient; and for that purpose to direct that all streets, lanes, and courts, and all houses and all rooms therein, and all yards, gardens, or places belonging to such houses, shall be cleansed and purified, and that all nuisances prejudicial to health shall be removed therefrom; and that all houses in which any sick person shall be or shall have been, shall be ventilated, fumigated, and whitewashed, the windows and doors thereof opened, and all beds, bedsteads, bedding and furniture therein, be exposed to the air, and be washed and cleansed, and, if absolutely necessary, to be burned or destroyed; and that some mark, number, or token shall be affixed on any house in which any inhabitant is infected with fever, denoting that some or one of the inhabitants therein are so infected; and to direct that all other measures shall be carried into execution which to such commissioners shall seem requisite for the purposes aforesaid.

XII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the said commissioners so to be from time to time appointed for forming such board of health, to employ any person or persons in the execution of the several powers to be exercised by them under this Act; and that it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland,

to order any sum or sums of money to be from time to time advanced out of the growing produce of the consolidated fund in Ireland, for the payment of the actual expenses incurred by or under the said commissioners in the execution of such powers; and that all sums of money so to be advanced shall be raised by presentments to be made by the grand juries, and raised off the county, or county of a city or town, in which such expense shall be incurred.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall resist or oppose any person or persons employed by or under the orders of the said commissioners so to be from time to time appointed for forming a board of health, in any county, city, town, or place, in the execution of the powers of the said commissioners under this Act, or in the doing or performing any matter or thing in execution of this Act under the orders of the said commissioners, every such person or persons so guilty of resisting or opposing shall, on conviction thereof before any two magistrates within his jurisdiction, on the oath or affirmation of one or more credible witness, or on the confession of the party so offending, incur such penalty, not less than ten shillings nor more than five pounds, as such magistrates shall in their discretion think proper to adjudge and inflict, or in failure of making payment of such fine, such offender shall and may be committed to the common gaol or house of correction for any time not exceeding three months, and no such conviction shall be quashed for informality, nor shall be removed or removable by *certiorari* or otherwise, nor subject to any appeal whatever.

XIV. And be it further enacted, That in all places where fever hospitals, or other places for the reception of poor persons being disordered with fever or other in-

fectious malady shall be established, it shall and may be lawful, upon the certificate of any physician, apothecary, or surgeon, that any person is infected with such fever or other infectious malady, and that such person so infected is not under proper medical care, and placed in such circumstances and under such precautions as may most probably tend to prevent the communication of contagion to his family or neighbours, for the commissioners forming any such board of health, or any five of them, to order or direct, by warrant under their hands and seals, after due and exact inquiry into the circumstances of the case, that such person so infected and not being under such medical care and placed in such circumstances of prevention as aforesaid, shall forthwith be removed into and placed in such fever hospital, or such other place as shall be established for the reception of such patients; and such infected person shall be removed and placed therein accordingly: Provided always, that the said commissioners so forming any such board of health shall, in all cases of such compulsory removal of any person or persons into such fever hospital, make a special report or notification thereof, under the hands of five of the said commissioners, to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, or to his or their Chief Secretary, within two days after such removal shall take place.

XV. And be it further enacted, That the said commissioners so forming any such board of health shall, on the Monday in every week during the continuance of the powers of such commissioners under this Act, make a report in writing to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, under the hands of five of such commissioners, and shall transmit the same to the office of the Chief Secretary; and shall in such report state a true and particular ac-

count of all the proceedings of the said commissioners under this Act, in such form as shall seem most expedient to the said commissioners, or in such form as may at any time be directed by such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors, or his or their Chief Secretary; and that whenever it shall be made appear by the evidence of one or more medical persons, or by any other sufficient means, to any two magistrates in any city, town, or district, in which such board of health shall be established under this Act, that the number of sick or the danger of contagion or infection are or is so decreased, that the powers to be executed by or under such board of health shall be no longer necessary, such two magistrates shall certify the same to the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland; and in such case, or whenever it shall by any report of the said commissioners, or by any other means, appear to the satisfaction of such Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors, that the powers of such board of health are no longer required in any such city, town, or district, it shall and may be lawful for the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors, or his or their Chief Secretary, by letter under his hand, to signify to such board of health that they are no longer to exercise the powers given to them by this Act; and thereupon all such powers shall cease and determine, until the same shall be again renewed pursuant to the directions of this Act.

XVI. And be it further enacted, That if any action shall be brought against any of the corporations to be erected by virtue of this Act, or against any commissioners to be appointed under or by virtue of this Act, or any person employed by such corporations or commissioners in execution of this Act, for any thing done in the execution of any of the powers or duties by this Act

given or required, the defendant or defendants may, in every such suit, plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence; and in every case where the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such suits shall fail, the court in which such suit shall be carried on shall award costs to the defendant or defendants.

No. VI.

(Circular.)

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL AND GENERAL
GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the last Session of Parliament, entituled, "An Act to establish fever hospitals, and to make other regulations for relief of suffering poor, and for preventing the increase of infectious fevers in Ireland," it is enacted, That whenever in any city, town, or district, any fever or contagious distemper shall appear or be known to exist amongst the poor inhabitants, it shall and may be lawful for one or more magistrates, upon the requisition of five respectable householders, to convene a meeting of the magistrates and householders of such city, town, or district, and of the medical practitioners within the same, in order to examine

into the circumstances attending such fever or contagious distemper, and the number of persons or families being sufferers thereby; and if it shall be the opinion of such meeting, and of one or more magistrates attending, that such fever or contagious distemper is of a nature to require particular attention and circumspection to prevent the increase of the contagion thereof, it shall be lawful for two or more magistrates, authorised by such meeting, to join in an application to the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, to appoint a Board of Health within and for such city, town, or district; and it shall be lawful for such Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, to appoint such board accordingly, to consist of not more than thirteen commissioners, to be selected from among the governors or members of the corporation of any infirmary or fever hospital or other hospital, and from the parishioners and medical practitioners, to act within such city, town, or district, in such manner and under such regulations as such Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, or his or their Chief Secretary, shall from time to time, order, direct, and appoint.

And whereas, a meeting of the magistrates and householders of the in the county of
and the medical practitioners within the same, has been
duly convened, to examine into the circumstances attend-
ing a fever or contagious distemper, which has appeared
among the poor inhabitants thereof; and it being the
opinion of the said meeting, and of
magistrates attending thereat, that the said fever or con-
tagious distemper is of a nature to require particular at-
tention and circumspection to prevent the increase of the
contagion thereof, the persons assembled at said meeting
have authorised

being magistrates of said county, to make application to
us to appoint a board of health within and for the said
in the said county of

We do therefore, in pursuance of the powers vested in
us aforesaid, hereby appoint the following persons to be
a board of health within and for the said
in the said county of accordingly, viz.

Given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin,

day of 1818.

By His Excellency's command.

No. VII.

To

Dublin Castle.

SIR,

I AM commanded by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint
you, that his Excellency has been pleased to approve of
the appointment of a board of health, to consist of the
gentlemen whose names are undermentioned.

Should it be necessary for the board to make applica-
tion for pecuniary assistance, under the 12th section of

the Act 58^o Geo. III. chap. 47, I am desired by the Lord Lieutenant to urge the propriety of requiring as limited a sum as the exigency of the case will admit of, particularly as the burden will ultimately fall upon the county.

It will be necessary to accompany the applications for public aid by written documents minutely detailing the number of persons suffering from fever, and carrying the fullest information with respect to the measures intended to be pursued, and the probable expenditure which they will occasion.

As the accounts will be submitted to the examination of the Commissioners of Accounts, regular vouchers must be kept of every item of expenditure, and the accuracy of the accounts certified by five, at least, of the members of the board of health.

I am to call the particular attention of the board to the 14th section of the Act above referred to, and also to the 15th, which requires the transmission of a weekly report in writing, containing a particular account of all the proceedings of the commissioners appointed under the Act.

I have the honor,

&c. &c.

P. S.—To assist the further proceedings of the board, his Excellency transmits a copy of the Act of last session, together with a printed copy of a communication from Doctor Renny, and of a paper which has been already circulated by government, the enforcement of which is strongly recommended to the consideration of the board.

No. VIII.

IMPORTANT ADVICE TO THE PUBLIC.

AS the fever which still continues to prevail extensively in many parts of Ireland is decidedly of a contagious nature, it is earnestly requested that the clergy of all religious persuasions should use the utmost exertions to impress upon the minds of their respective congregations and flocks, the necessity of employing the most active measures for checking its further progress in their houses and cabins, and for this purpose to call their attention to the strict observance of the annexed rules, which have been transcribed from the printed regulations of the Fever Hospital and House of Recovery in Cork-street, Dublin.

It having likewise been represented that fever had been, in many instances, propagated at wakes, and the different places of divine worship, in consequence of numbers of people having been crowded together, some of whose garments had lain upon the beds of persons labouring under fever, and had become impregnated with the contagious effluvia; it appears, therefore, to be a matter of great importance to state the above facts to the clergy generally, as well as to those active and humane individuals, whose conduct in maintaining and superintending the several charitable institutions which have been lately formed to meet the present pressure entitles them to the

highest praise, that no time may be lost in establishing a system of preventive measures throughout every part of the country, the enforcement of which, even for a few months, cannot fail to produce the most beneficial effects.

Though you may have sent your friend to the hospital, yet the infection in all probability still remains in your rooms, and about your clothes. To remove it, you are advised to use, without delay, the following means:

1.—Let all your doors and windows be immediately thrown open, and let them remain so throughout the day.

3.—Let the clothes you wear be steeped in cold water, and afterwards washed: and let any chest, box, drawer, &c. in the infectious house be emptied and cleansed.

2.—Let the house, room, or cabin from whence the patient is removed be immediately cleansed; all dirty clothes, utensils, &c. immersed in cold water; the bed clothes, first steeped in cold water, then wrung out, and washed in warm water and soap.

4.—If you lie on straw beds, let the straw be immediately burned, and fresh straw provided, and let the ticken be steeped in cold water.

5.—Whitewash all your rooms, and the entrance to them, with lime slaked in the place where you intend to use it, and while it continues bubbling and hot.

6.—Scrape your floor with a shovel, and wash it clean; also your furniture.

7.—Keep in the open air for the space of a week as much as you can.

And lastly, wash your face, hands, and feet, and comb your hair well every morning at least.

The benefit of this advice, after infection has entered your dwelling, you will soon feel; and persevering in your attention to it will, under God's protection, preserve you from all the variety of wretchedness occasioned by infectious fevers.

Attend to it, then, with spirit and punctuality; for be assured that

CLEANLINESS

will check disease, improve your health and strength, and increase your comfort.

AS the several Boards of Health about to be established in the towns and districts of Ireland, where contagious fever still continues to prevail to an unusual and alarming extent, will consist, in compliance with the Act of the 58th of the King cap. xlvii., in part, of those resident Medical Practitioners who have already been actively and usefully engaged in relieving the above description of

sick poor, the following hints are submitted for their consideration, and communicated to the respective boards, in the hope that they may assist their benevolent labours.

This highly interesting subject may naturally be divided into two parts—the cure—and the prevention of fever.

Under the first head, much will depend upon the early removal of the patient into hospital; and, when this has been done, his person ought to be made perfectly clean, by immersion in a tepid bath, or by rubbing his body with a sponge moistened with tepid water and soap. He ought to have his head combed, and be furnished with a clean well-aired shirt and night-cap before he is put into bed. Such attentions, in the first instance, are highly important, and ought never to be dispensed with, as, besides the immediate comfort they afford, they frequently check and mitigate the severity of fever, and prevent it from spreading amongst the hospital attendants.

The treatment of the existing epidemic, under its various states of mildness or severity of symptoms, is so well understood by a large majority of the respectable Physicians of Ireland, as not to call for any particular remarks. It deserves, however, to be noted, that a good many persons have of late been found to relapse a short time after they had been discharged from hospital—a casualty which has been attributed to privations from poverty, with great appearance of truth. Societies, chiefly consisting of benevolent ladies, have been formed, in Dublin and elsewhere, to meet and relieve this particular distress, by supplying wholesome nutriment to such persons for two or three weeks after their cure had been

completed, as well as small articles of clothing, when pressingly wanted by female poor; and this is an arrangement which cannot be too strongly recommended for general adoption, under this reservation, that whilst the benefits it bestows are extended to the weak and destitute poor for a short time during their convalescence from fever, none other ought to be admitted on the list.

Although the Act of the last Sessions, already alluded to, has defined the duties and responsibility which will attach upon boards of health when formed, it may, perhaps, serve an useful purpose to call their attention to the observance of those parts of the preventive system which are of chief importance.

When the patient has been removed to hospital, the rules set forth in a printed paper, hereunto annexed, which has been very widely circulated by Government, ought to be strictly and steadily enforced; and copies of said paper, with such additions thereto as local experience shall suggest, should be left in every house and cabin where fever exists.—These rules embrace—

Ventilation.

Purification of apartments, body and bed clothes.

Providing beds with fresh straw.

Whitewashing with slaked lime, while it continues bubbling and hot.

Observance of personal cleanliness, and keeping as much as possible in the open air until fever subsides.

Every house in which a case of fever has been discovered, should be regularly inspected for five or six weeks

after the removal of the patient to hospital, or when not removed, after the termination of his disease.

It is to be lamented that the construction of the houses and cabins occupied by the middle and lower order of inhabitants in towns, as well as in country situations, renders it in general extremely difficult to throw a current of pure air through them, in any direction. When practicable, it must be done, either by making openings in the walls, or in the roof of these buildings, or by enlarging the doors and windows, and keeping them constantly open, night and day. It is a truth not to be concealed, that the habits and feelings of the unhappy sufferers present considerable obstacles to the execution of this part of the preventive plan to the necessary extent: it is, however, of such *vital importance* as not to be lost sight of or abandoned for a moment, by any personal opposition that may be made to its due enforcement.

As the contagion, by means of which typhus fever is communicated from one person to another, has been found to adhere with great tenacity to all kinds of woollen garments, it must form an essential part of every scheme, which purposes its speedy extinction, to attend to the cleansing and purification of body and bed clothes; although it must be admitted that this object is difficult to be effected, where these articles are so frequently in a ragged and filthy condition. Great, however, as these difficulties undoubtedly are, it is highly desirable to meet them by adequate exertion and suitable relief, as far as funds will admit; as, whenever contagious fever has prevailed for any length of time in a particular dwelling, the filthy and miserable state of the clothing and bedding of the poor inhabitants will be found to be a chief cause of the mischief.

Should we be fortunate enough to surmount the fore-

going obstacles in any tolerable degree, the sequel of our course will be comparatively easy, as the provision of straw for beds, with frequent whitewashing and scouring of apartments, furniture, &c. may at all times be accomplished with little trouble or expense.

No. IX.

(Circular.)

Dublin Castle, October 8th 1818.

GENTLEMEN,

AS it appears from a report lately presented to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant by Doctor Renny, Director General of Military hospitals, which contains an accurate list of the whole of the fever patients admitted into the general hospitals of Dublin, for one year, ending 31st of August 1818, (a copy of which report is herewith enclosed,)* that fever has progressively increased in the city and neighbourhood during the above period, although with a decreasing mortality in proportion to the admissions; I have received the Lord Lientenant's commands to request you would take an early opportunity of summoning a meeting of the physicians now in attendance upon hospital for the purpose of taking the fact stated in said report into consideration, and submitting an opinion, whether in their

* For this report see table of the fever patients admitted into the Dublin hospitals annexed to the report of the Provincial Inspector for Leinster.

judgment any remedial or preventive means ought to be employed beyond those which have been and are at present in active operation throughout the city of Dublin and its vicinity, and are pointed out in an Act of Parliament passed during the last Sessions, (a copy of which Act and certain official papers, explanatory thereof are likewise transmitted,) that His Excellency may be the better enabled to decide upon the expediency of taking further measures to check the progress of the epidemic.

I have to add, that it would be satisfactory to His Excellency, that the report from the physicians should be accompanied with a statement in writing from the governors themselves, in which they will be so good as to deliver their sentiments fully on this highly interesting subject, supporting the same with such facts and observations as have been suggested by their own experience in the management of the charity over which they preside, more especially during the year included in Dr. Renny's report.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

CHARLES GRANT.

No. IX.—A.

LETTER FROM THE MANAGING COMMITTEE of the Fever Hospital, Cork-street, to the Right Hon. Charles Grant.

Cork-street, Dublin, 22d Nov. 1818.

SIR,

THE Managing Committee of this hospital, having duly received your letter of the 8th of October, inclosing a report lately presented to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant by Doctor Renny, Director General of Hospitals, together with other papers relating to the fever now prevailing in Ireland; did, in compliance with His Excellency's desire, communicated in your letter, call upon the physicians of this hospital to take into their consideration the facts stated in said report, and to submit their opinions whether any, and what remedial or preventive means ought to be employed, beyond those which have been, and are at present in active operation throughout this city and its vicinity. And the Managing Committee have now the honour to enclose the report of the physicians upon this subject.

The Committee feel it to be their duty to transmit this report unaccompanied by any comment; but in obedience to His Excellency's desire, they proceed to submit such observations as have been suggested by their own experience during the progress of the epidemic.

Without attempting to inquire into the causes, which in ordinary times produce fever among the poor in Ireland, to an extent far beyond what is found to exist in England, the fact is not to be doubted. And it is not surprising, that this disease should have encreased to its present formidable extent, when we contemplate the circumstances in which this country has lately been placed. The bad harvests of the year 1816 and 1817, produced amongst the poorer classes a degree of distress scarcely to be described. The bad quality, as well as the extravagant price of food, were in themselves serious evils, but the general deficiency of employment for the poor which marked that awful period, conduced especially to aggravate their distress; want of clothing, and of every other comfort, were the natural consequences: this state of deprivation induced a more than usual neglect of cleanliness in their persons and habitations; and in too many cases a vain transient relief from care was sought for in a resort to spirituous liquors. These causes conspired to produce bodily weakness, pre-disposing to the production or reception of contagion.

The encreased extent of hospital accommodation, which was so promptly provided by the humane attention of government, has no doubt been attended with the most beneficial effects, and would probably have been sufficient to meet the pressure within the city, but that the influx from the surrounding country has been so considerable as, at times, to render it impossible to admit the total number of applicants.

This circumstance has suggested the expediency of providing temporary accommodation for patients, to be attached to the dispensaries already established in some of the larger villages in the neighbourhood of Dublin.

It has already been shewn by Doctor Renny's report, that the admission of patients into this hospital did progressively increase during the year ending the 31st of August last, and most rapidly in the last quarter; but providentially, as the spring advanced, the mortality declined considerably, and in the summer quarter, the number of deaths bore a proportion to the number of admissions of less than one half of what they had been in the first quarter of that year. This comparative diminution of deaths becomes still more striking, on comparing the last month of that year with the first. By reference to the registry it appears, that, in September 1817, the admissions were 372, and the deaths 21; and in August 1818, the admissions were 731, and the deaths only 14.

A table is annexed, extracted from the registry, shewing, monthly, during a period of the 14 months last past, ending the 31st of October, the admissions into the hospital, the average number of days the patients remained therein, and the total number of deaths: by reference to this table, the above facts will more clearly appear; and it will likewise be found, that the average time the patients remained under cure, began to lessen as the mortality declined; and the Committee are happy in being able to add, that this proof of the growing mildness of the epidemic has continued with but little variation up to the present period.

It is however painful to observe, that in the two last months the applications for admission have increased; and it has not unfrequently occurred, that the extensive accommodation provided in this and other hospitals has been insufficient to meet the pressure. However, in viewing this circumstance, we do not attribute it altogether to an encrease of fever; for we are of

opinion, that a considerable abatement has taken place in the prejudice which had existed amongst the poor against going into hospitals, caused probably by the experience they possess of the superior comfort which patients enjoy in hospitals, compared with their condition in their own dwellings; this, together with extreme poverty of the people, and the alarm which prevails as to the danger of contagion, may fairly be supposed to have a strong tendency to crowd our hospitals with cases of a very light description.

A second table is annexed, comprising a period of three years, ending 5th January 1817, shewing in each year the total admission of patients, the average number of days they remained in the hospital, and the total number of deaths. From this table two facts appear; first, the general prevalence of fever amongst the poor of Dublin; secondly, the mildness of the present epidemic, evinced by the comparative shortness of the period of illness; and the smaller proportion of deaths during its progress, compared with the three prior years.

Notwithstanding that the alarm which the unabated prevalence of the existing fever would naturally excite, is so much lessened by the present mildness of its symptoms, yet the utmost vigilance is still requisite; possibly the approach of the winter may produce an encrease of the disease, and that additional means for the separation of the sick from the healthy may be called for.

The Managing Committee would, with great deference, further suggest, that whatever would promote habits of sobriety amongst the poor, and of cleanliness in their persons and dwellings, would probably tend, not only to abate the present epidemic, but to lessen the usual prevalence of fever. A more copious supply of pure water,

conveniently distributed in Dublin, would promote this object in no small degree. A due ventilation of their habitations, and a more strict attention to the removal of nuisances within the city, are likewise objects of great importance, with a view to the prevention of contagion.

The Committee are fully impressed with the importance of the subject upon which, in obedience to the Lord Lieutenant's commands, they have thus ventured to deliver their sentiments; and it will afford them much pleasure should the facts and observations herein submitted prove, in any degree, serviceable in promoting the humane objects which engage his Excellency's attention.

We have the honour, &c. &c.

(Signed)

ARTHUR GUINNESS,
JOHN LELAND MAQUAY,
WILLIAM ENGLISH,
THOMAS CROSTHWAITE,
J. B. BARRINGTON,
WILLIAM HARDING,
JOHN HUTTON, JUN.
JOHN HONE.

☞ The Committee take the liberty of sending herewith a copy of the printed report from this institution for the year ending the 4th of January last, as they conceive that there are several important facts set forth in the Medical Report contained therein.

*The Right Hon. Charles Grant,
&c. &c. Dublin Castle.*

No. IX.—B.

LETTER FROM THE PHYSICIANS of the Fever Hospital in Cork-street, in reply to the Right Hon. C. GRANT.

Fever Hospital, Cork-street, Oct. 21st 1818.

IN compliance with the commands of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, as communicated by the Chief Secretary to the Managing Committee of the Fever Hospital in Cork-street, the physicians of that establishment have maturely considered the subject referred to them, and fully impressed with its importance, proceed to submit their opinion on the plan which may be adopted to restrain the further progress of the epidemic fever.

The measures they would recommend relate chiefly to the separation of the infected from the healthy, and the adoption of a general system of cleansing calculated to destroy contagion.

With respect to the first of these objects they would observe, that the necessity of additional measures has of late become most evident; as patients are now, not unfrequently, delayed for days together before they can obtain admission to the hospitals, and a few sufferers who have in vain solicited this relief, have even died in their own dwelling.

Hence it is apparent, that the number of beds in hospitals is insufficient for the accommodation of all ap-

plicants, and it is therefore to be apprehended that fever may extend itself in an increasing ratio. This evil must be greatly augmented by the introduction of patients from the country, who either previous to their admission to hospitals, or subsequent to their dismissal, may spread fever in the crowded population of this city; an event not improbable, as such persons, in order to qualify themselves for admission to this hospital, from which country patients are excluded, first procure a lodging, and then apply to be admitted as inhabitants of the town.

The physicians would therefore propose, that the number of beds for fever patients be increased in different quarters of the city, proportioned respectively to their poverty and population; they would likewise recommend that hospitals be established in the immediate vicinity of Dublin, for the reception of fever patients in their neighbourhood; and it appears adviseable that such hospitals should be connected with existing Dispensaries, and placed under the controul of the managers of these establishments; and in selecting their situations, preference should be given to those parts of the adjoining country which are most populous, and therefore most productive of disease. It is probable that if such hospitals shall be established, the necessity for additional accommodation within the city will either cease altogether or be greatly diminished. In the wearing apparel, bedding and furniture, of sick families, an obvious and hitherto almost neglected source of infection exists; for its removal, a system of cleansing is indispensably requisite, and the efforts to be employed for this purpose should be general and simultaneous. With this view they would propose the following plan: that the town be divided into ten or more districts, and that in each of these a committee be appointed, consisting of the managers of the hospital contiguous to that district, together with some of

the inhabitants best acquainted with its local circumstances, aided by physicians. The members of such committees to have the power of ordering the immediate removal of fever patients to hospitals, and of directing such measures as may best serve to destroy infection. That a superintending committee be also formed, consisting of one deputy to be sent from each of the district committees, and of physicians practically acquainted with this subject, for the purpose of communicating to government an account of their proceedings, and of rendering the general operations uniform and simultaneous. That in each district there be established a cleansing house, furnished with a bath, stove, and other necessary apparatus, where the clothing and bedding of infected families can by proper means be purified, and where straw shall be distributed as the case may require. Experience already proves this plan to be practicable, and its reasonableness and moderate expense strongly recommend it for a fair and extensive trial.

They also propose that each committee be furnished with a carriage for the conveyance of fever patients to hospitals, a measure which in their opinion would obviate that delay of patients in their dwellings, which the physicians apprehend must contribute to extend infection. Clothes have been distributed to many poor families infected with fever during the present epidemic; and if this distribution of clothes were to be adopted as a reward to poor families for their compliance with the measures tending to destroy infection, the physicians believe that the best results would follow.

They would strongly recommend that all compulsory measures be avoided, as likely to impede existing arrangements, or to cause eventual failure. As the dwellings of the lower classes are in many instances insufficiently ventilated, which the physicians can assert from

personal observation, they feel themselves bound to declare, that every impediment to perfect ventilation should be removed, not merely in houses already infected, but generally in crowded habitations throughout the city. Many parts of the Liberty are but indifferently supplied with water; this, by rendering cleanliness impracticable, must contribute to extend infection.

With much satisfaction the physicians remark that, beggars are now much less numerous in the streets than they formerly were, and earnestly hope that the evil of permitting them to be at large, which has ever been supposed to contribute to the extension of epidemic diseases, will not again recur. This subject leads them to remark on the general condition of the labouring poor, and they feel themselves called upon to state that, want of employment contributes much, as an indirect cause, to further the progress of this epidemic fever, by producing extreme poverty, whence arise filth, rags, despondency of mind, feebleness of body, and the disposition to procure a temporary oblivion of misery by habits of intoxication, all powerful disposing causes of fever.

The views here offered are proposed with much diffidence of their immediate success, as the physicians are well aware that, when an epidemic, such as that which now prevails, has once fixed itself in a populous city, great and persevering exertions of all classes of the community are required for its total suppression.

(Signed)

F. BARKER, M. D.

J. O'BRIEN, M. D.

S. ROBINSON, M. D.

G. HAGAN, M. D.

JOHN O'REARDON, M. D.

RICHARD GRATTAN, M. D.

P. HARKAN, M. D.

No. IX.—C.

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNORS of the
House of Industry, in reply.

TO THE RIGHT HON. CHARLES GRANT.

House of Industry,
Oct. 22d, 1818.

SIR,

WE beg leave most respectfully to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, communicating the Lord Lieutenant's commands, that "we should take
" an early opportunity of summoning a meeting of the
" physicians now in attendance on the fever hospitals attached to the House of Industry, for the purpose of
" taking the facts stated in *Doctor Renny's report relative*
" *to fever* into consideration, and submitting their opinion whether any remedial or preventive means ought
" to be employed *beyond those* which have been, and are
" in active operation throughout the city of Dublin and
" its vicinity." And, in compliance with his Excellency's commands, we take the liberty herewith to transmit the unanimous report of the physicians on this subject.

His Excellency has been also pleased to direct that
" the said report should be accompanied by a statement
" from us, in which we should deliver our sentiments
" fully on this highly interesting subject, supporting the

“ same with such facts and observations as have been suggested to us.” We presume, it would be most satisfactory to his Excellency, and to you, Sir, to give a detailed account of such measures as have been adopted, with the approbation of government, for the relief of patients suffering under fever, and the arrest of the progress of the present epidemic; we beg leave, therefore, to subjoin the following statement:—

The epidemic fever originated in the province of Ulster, in the spring of the year 1817, and rapidly spread over the kingdom, visiting every country parish, and even townland in Ireland. It did not make its appearance in Dublin, to any extraordinary extent, until early in the month of September in the same year, when the admissions in our hospitals encreased from 24 to 100 weekly, and the circumstance being immediately communicated to government, we were ordered to apply the Whitworth hospital (originally intended for chronic diseases, and then just finished) to the accommodation of patients labouring under fever; this enabled us to meet the exigency for the moment. In a few days after, we received directions from the Lord Lieutenant to extend our inquiries into those parts of the city wherein fever appeared, or where, from the neglect of cleanliness, and the density of the population, its appearance might be apprehended. In consequence of these directions, we divided the city and its vicinity into four districts, to each of which a medical inspector was appointed, who was ordered to ascertain the extent of fever in the respective districts, to encourage the infected to resort to hospital, to detect nuisances which might be prejudicial to health, and to point out such apartments of the poor as might require to be whitewashed and cleansed; and they were also directed to make daily reports to us and the physi-

cians. Two hundred *extern* poor were employed in those offices of cleansing, and every apartment from which a patient in fever was removed was immediately white-washed, and the accumulated filth of years was removed from the houses, streets, and lanes inhabited by the lower orders. This measure has been still continued, and the general cleansing of the habitations of the poor in the entire city is complete every fortnight; and although this has not appeared to extirpate the epidemic, we concur fully with the report of the physicians, “that had it not
 “been resorted to, few of the poor of the city would
 “have escaped, and the disease would have extended
 “itself more than it has done hitherto among the upper
 “ranks of society.”

Early in the month of October, when the extent of accommodation afforded was found inadequate, we were ordered to appropriate the finished apartments of the Richmond General Penitentiary to the reception of fever patients, and one half of that extensive building was speedily occupied; but accommodation being still required, the remaining half was prepared, and applied to the same purpose; and in the month of August, every apartment and bed was occupied, as the patients in hospital had encreased in less than one year from 87 to 700; and such was the prompt and liberal aid afforded by government, and such was its provident care during that period, that no applicant for admission was refused, with the exception of one day.

Notwithstanding all these measures of medical prevention, the fever still continued to extend, and accommodation for 180 patients additional, at the expense of government, was provided in Sir Patrick Dunn's and Stevens's hospital.

With respect to further measures of prevention, we feel much difficulty in deciding whether any should be resorted to beyond those at present in active operation, save an extension of hospital accommodation, and an encrease of the number of medical inspectors; the former appears to us absolutely necessary, for if the infected are not separated from the healthy, the contagion will be necessarily diffused far and wide.

The measure of encreasing the number of medical inspectors, we venture to recommend from the experience of its great utility; they detect nuisances, distinguish those patients who require hospital treatment from those who may be relieved by medicines administered at their own habitations. Should these suggestions be approved of, we would recommend that such additional medical inspectors as may be appointed, should be attached to the other fever hospitals in this city, and their number proportioned to the extent of each hospital, so that each inspector should be able to visit every house and room from which a fever patient is taken, before and after the removal of such patient. An immediate medical inspection of each infected apartment, would insure the selection of the most urgent cases, and an immediate adoption of the means best calculated to relieve disease, and remove infection. From the circumstance that some one of our medical inspectors is generally afflicted with fever contracted in the performance of his duty, and from the great extent of fever accommodation afforded by our hospitals, which now contain 700 fever patients, we are of opinion that it would be necessary that one or two persons should be added to the present number of our inspectors.

Of the expediency of constituting a board of health,

under the provisions of a late Act of Parliament, we have great doubts; such a measure would create considerable alarm, would interfere with the commercial and manufacturing interest, and would be attended with considerable expense. Was the present epidemic of a highly malignant nature, wasting the population of the city, the propriety of the measure would not admit of a doubt, but Dr. Renny's table is an evident proof that this is not the case, nay, it clearly demonstrates the reverse; for whilst it proves an encrease of fever, it also proves a regular diminution of mortality, compared with the extent of the disease, and the table which we take the liberty of transmitting, No. 3, is a corroboration of the Doctor's opinion. It is the universal opinion, that the fever is, in general, of a remarkably mild type, that it originated from, and is continued by the poverty, want of employment, and consequent mental depression of the lower orders; besides this consideration, we are inclined to think such a measure is at present unnecessary. There is at this moment a board of health virtually existing in this city; there are nine gentlemen of professional eminence, members of the College of Physicians, and paid by government, attached to the hospitals of the House of Industry; there are also a number of physicians of character in attendance on the other fever hospitals: the conjoined exertions of such a body, with the aid which it is presumed could be afforded by the experience of the governors of the fever hospitals, would, we conceive, supersede the necessity of a board of health, without resorting to those apparently severe measures which such a board would be authorised to put in force, such as marks to be affixed on any house in which an inhabitant is infected with fever, penalty on persons resisting orders, and the power of enforcing the infected to be removed to hospitals.

Instead of the establishment of a board of health, ac-

according to the provisions of the Act of the last sessions, we humbly conceive that the most beneficial effect might be given to the measures hitherto adopted, by the governors of the existing hospitals, acting with unity of design and unanimity of operation. This we are of opinion might be obtained by a central committee selected by the Lord Lieutenant from the governors and physicians of the existing hospitals, with such other persons as it may be his Excellency's pleasure to add; that it should be the duty of that committee to receive and compare the daily reports of the several fever hospitals in the city; these reports should minutely comprehend the name and age of the patients, the street and number of the houses from whence removed, that the committee might see at one view the numbers received from each street the preceding day or week; by this arrangement the committee would immediately perceive in what quarter fever was most prevalent, and direct the attention of the governors, or parish officers (if necessary) to the remedies most likely to prevent or remove contagion. The committees might also take into their consideration the suggestions contained in the report of the governors and physicians of the several fever hospitals, which have been at different times laid before government, and enjoin the adoption of such measures as may appear to them most efficient and practicable.

We consider it necessary here to state the process pursued at the House of Industry for disinfecting the clothes of the sick. The clothes of all are disinfected by their immersion for twenty-four hours in cold water, and afterwards in a strong solution of soda, and by exposure to the air during the confinement of the patient. As an improvemegt on this plan, it has been proposed gratuitously to provide new articles of clothing and bedding, and to burn the old; if this was practicable through ade-

quate pecuniary means, doubts might be still entertained of our being able to accomplish the end proposed. An exchange of old for new completely simultaneous is not practicable; and if such articles were to be dealt out to the poor in succession, as fever should disclose itself, the new clothes of some would be likely to borrow infection from the old clothes of others; nor could we calculate, that the poor would retain what should be so bestowed, even if to prevent their being pawned they were distinguished, as at Hamburgh, by the peculiar mark of an association. Such mark is not indelible, and it is probable that those articles of secondary necessity would soon disappear to supply the more urgent want of food, to purchase which the poor now part even with their own clothes; but where would be found a fund for the purpose? Forty shillings would be a low estimate for a suit of bed and body clothes, and £40,000. of course necessary to furnish with such articles each of the persons sent to the hospital within the last year; and this, without adverting to what is extremely probable, that vast numbers would flock in from the country in the hope of obtaining such articles. In the early period of fever, when the governors were pressed to receive into hospital city cases only, and to exclude those from the country, they felt the selection not merely severe but impracticable, and equally impracticable would such selection be in the distribution of the articles above-mentioned. Moreover, were they even to be given to those infected, could they well be refused to others who should be found totally destitute of those articles? In Nicholson's-court, Church-street, amongst one hundred and fifty inhabitants, there were found only two bedsteads and two blankets.

With a view of obtaining from all the resources in our power every assistance, we directed our medical inspectors to send us their opinions upon the subject, as con-

nected with their duties; we take the liberty of transmitting their report in the form sent us, and we consider it of some value as containing the result of the practical experience of young, active, and intelligent officers; and we concur with them generally in their opinion, but most particularly with respect to the pernicious consequences of the existing nuisances of slaughter-houses, and the want of rears, privies, and private sewers.

To the reports herewith transmitted we have nothing further to add, than a short recapitulation of the measures before detailed, viz.:

1st.—The expediency of providing an extension of hospital accommodation, by which we mean not an extension of hospitals in the city, (if it can be avoided) which would have the operation of inducing the poor to resort to an over-crowded and diseased metropolis, but the establishment of small buildings as fever hospitals in the vicinity, either connected with the existing dispensaries or in contiguous situations, where suitable superintendence and medical aid could be procured.

2dly.—That the Lord Lieutenant might be pleased to nominate a certain number of the governors and physicians of the respective fever hospitals, with such others as he may think it in his wisdom proper to add, to receive the reports of the several hospitals, and communicate their opinions thereon, accompanied with such suggestions as may have a tendency to alleviate or eradicate the present calamity.

3dly.—That a certain number of medical visitors should be attached to the several fever hospitals in the city, to visit such as may be afflicted with fevers in the district in which that hospital may be situated, to en-

courage the infected to resort to hospital, and to administer medicines to such of the poor as may not labour under contagious disease, and that two medical inspectors should be added to the number at present attached to the hospitals of the House of Industry.

4thly.—That all nuisances which may affect the health of the inhabitants should be immediately abated, particularly tripe and slaughter-houses, soap-boilers and chandlers: that private sewers should be obligatory, and that if the present laws are not adequate to the purpose, that it would be expedient that legislative enactment should be provided.

And lastly, we would most humbly recommend (if it were possible to obtain it) the general employment of the poor in Public Works, or other avocations which may not interfere with the usual channels of industry, as the most efficacious means of eradicating poverty, and extirpating disease.

If in the furtherance of any of these measures we shall be considered in the smallest degree auxiliary to the public benefit, as it is both our bounden duty and our inclination to be, we shall, if required, cheerfully employ our time and such talents as we may possess in the promotion of objects so very important.

(Signed)

JAS. HENTHORN,
WM. O'CONNOR,
EDW. HOUGHTON,
JAMES HORNER,
FRAN. L'ESTRANGE.

No. IX.—D.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIANS of the House of
Industry.*House of Industry,**Oct. the 15th 1818.*

WE, the physicians in attendance upon the fever hospitals attached to the House of Industry, having been convened by the governors of that institution, for the purpose of “taking into consideration a report lately
“presented to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant by
“Doctor Renny, Director General of Military hospitals,
“which contains an accurate list of the whole of the
“fever patients admitted into the general hospitals of
“Dublin for one year, ending the 31st of August 1818,
“and of submitting our opinion, whether any remedial
“or preventive means ought to be employed beyond
“those which have been and are at present in active
“operation throughout the city of Dublin and its vicinity, and are pointed out in an Act of Parliament,
“passed during the last sessions, for establishing fever
“hospitals, &c. in order that his Excellency may be
“better enabled to decide upon the expediency of taking
“further measures to check the epidemic;” beg leave, in the first place, to bear testimony to the benefits which have arisen from the measures employed under his Excellency’s direction, by the governors of the House of Industry, and of the other fever hospitals in Dublin, for arresting the progress of the epidemic: we are persuaded

had there been less activity in separating the diseased from the healthy, and in disinfecting the habitations and clothes of such as have laboured under fever, that few of the poor of this city would have escaped, and that the disease would have extended itself more than it has hitherto done among the upper ranks of society.

So convinced are we of the expediency of the means which have been adopted, that we do not hesitate to recommend an extension of the system, more especially in the articles of inspection and cleansing. Were the inspectors more numerous, their visits might be more frequent and particular, and a greater proportion of the sick might be removed from their own lodgings at an earlier period of fever, by which these individuals would be more benefitted, while their families would be less exposed to danger of infection: and with respect to cleansing, we know from experience, that it might be extended to the bedding and persons as well as to the houses of the poor. And under this head also, we would earnestly recommend the most active co-operation between the servants of the Paving Board and the scavengers employed by the governors of the House of Industry, as we understand that there are many nuisances prejudicial to the public health, which the latter, unaided, are not competent to abate.

We all have had opportunities of observing, that many of the fever patients in our hospitals are from the country, and we know that these patients generally pass a night or two in Dublin before their removal to an hospital, leaving, in the lodging which they had occupied, the germ of disease. It is probable in this way that we are in part to account for the obstinacy with which the fever has maintained its ground in some of the streets in the line of the great western and northern roads; as for

example, Church-street and Barrack-street, which still supply us with many cases of fever, notwithstanding repeated cleansing and lime washing. For this evil we can devise no remedy so effectual as the establishment of fever hospitals in those districts in the neighbourhood of Dublin from which such patients come. If this suggestion should meet with his Excellency's approbation, we conceive that small establishments for fever patients might be attached to some of the dispensaries in the neighbourhood of Dublin, under the management and care of the governors and medical attendants of these institutions, who must be supposed to possess a considerable portion of experience and skill in the management of the sick poor.

From the very important document which Doctor Renny has laid before his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, it appears that the epidemic uniformly extended itself up to the 31st of August; and as we have no reason to think that it has received any check since that period, we are of opinion, that further accommodation should be in readiness for the sick, lest there should be any overflowing of the hospitals at present occupied by patients in fever.

As the Act of Parliament contains a provision for the appointment of Boards of Health during the prevalence of contagious fever, it is probable that the legislature expected that these measures of medical police, which the safety of the public might require during such a calamity, should emanate from a Board of Health. But it is evident, that the establishment of a Board of Health at present would alarm the community, injure the manufacturing and commercial interests, and lead to expenses which the inhabitants of Dublin could ill defray.

It is therefore with great deference submitted to his Excellency's consideration, 1st, that each of the fever hospitals shall become the centre of a district of the city, over the health of which district the governors of that hospital shall preside; and 2dly, that there be stated meetings of the governors and physicians of these hospitals constituting divisional committees of health, to receive the reports of visiting physicians, medical inspectors, &c. relative to the health of the district, and to suggest to the proper authorities such further measures as may restrain the spread of fever, and that the minutes of these meetings be circulated reciprocally, so that each may profit by the experience of the others.

(Signed)

D. BRYAN,
J. CHEYNE,
JAMES CLARKE,
JOHN CRAMPTON,
W. STOKES,
T. HERB. ORPEN,
SAMUEL LITTON,
DAN. FALLOON,
H. G. DOUGLASS,
C. H. TODD,
J. J. LEAHY,
J. PEEBLES.

No. IX.—E.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF GOVERNORS of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, as required by the letter of the Right Hon. Charles Grant, Chief Secretary to his Excellency Earl Talbot, dated, Dublin Castle, 8th October 1818.

Grand Canal-street, October 20, 1818.

IN compliance with the desire of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, expressed to us by Mr. Secretary Grant's letter of the 8th instant, and with reference to the several documents received with the same, we have called upon the physicians in attendance upon fever patients in Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital for a report containing their opinions, whether any measures, remedial or preventive, ought to be employed beyond those which have been, and are at present in active operation throughout this city and its vicinity.

This report we have received, and have now the honour to transmit herewith for his Excellency's information.

And in obedience to the further desire of his Excellency, to have a statement in writing from the governors themselves, independent of the said medical report, but in reference to this most interesting subject, we proceed to offer our opinions thereon with that frankness which we are convinced his Excellency desires, and becoming the importance of the subject.

In doing this, it is not our intention to go at any

length into the question of contagion, confining ourselves thereon to the general concurrence in the fact, that infectious fever does exist to an alarming extent; but to submit those circumstances connected therewith which appear to us to be the causes which have led to its formidable extension, and as far as our experience enables us, to point out the means remedial and preventive as most likely for its mitigation or extinction.

In the first place, we conceive that the fever, however generated, has been kept alive and extended by a general want of attention amongst the poorer classes to cleansing and airing their infected furniture, clothing, and bedding, and burning their straw beds; and experience has fully proved that, notwithstanding the cautionary advice, and personal care which has been exercised by those persons in charge of hospitals, little has been comparatively done in these most important particulars.

Another circumstance, which we have good reason to believe tends, in a very great degree, to the extension of contagion, is the practice so universal amongst the poor of *waking*, as it is called, the corpse of their deceased friend, a ceremony which, from force of habit and ill-directed feeling, brings together a large assemblage of persons, generally in a close ill ventilated apartment, in immediate contact with infection in its most active state; and such persons, previously free from fever, too often carry it to their respective homes, and thereby spread it amongst habitations and families, that would otherwise, in all human probability, have escaped it.

Fever has also been upheld and extended in its ravages in the city of Dublin, from a want of cleanliness in the streets, lanes, and courts, where the poor generally re-

side, such as the several parishes in the liberty to the west, and that of St. Mark to the east, many of such streets not having sewers; the necessary consequence is, that the filth accumulated by the poor is suffered to collect, or is thrown upon the surface of the street, where it too often remains neglected and unremoved, to the manifest danger of all: superadded to this, public receptacles of manure and putrid matter are collected into deposits within the city, and in some cases, immediately adjoining the habitations of the poor, one of which, in the neighbourhood of our hospital, at the rere of Boyne-street, has rendered fever a constant scourge to that afflicted district. We are further of opinion, that fever has been induced and extended by the use of bad and unwholesome food amongst the poor. We are likewise firmly persuaded, that the benevolent exertions which have been so universally applied for the subjugation of fever, have been counteracted by want of ventilation; and we are warranted in this assertion, from the very many instances in which fever has been most general and obstinate, where it has appeared that the landlords of houses, which are let to the poor in tenements, have stopped up windows, absolutely necessary for moderate ventilation, in order to avoid the tax however small: and besides, for the purpose of making the utmost of their wretched inmates, these are invariably crowded together in such numbers, as would of itself, to an almost certainty, create contagion. We have further generally to state, as our decided opinion, that a most fruitful source of generating and keeping alive epidemic fever is, the poverty and numerous privations to which the poor are subject from want of employment, caused often, no doubt, by their own imprudence, and not seldom, by an unfortunate spirit of combination, creating, however, in all cases habitual despondence, and a total neglect of cleanliness in their dwellings and persons; to these circumstances we would ascribe

that peculiarity of constitution which strongly disposes them to the reception of contagion, and until a constant and regular channel of employment shall open to them, by which they may be enabled to acquire not merely the necessaries, but a moderate portion of the comforts of life, we fear that fever will still continue to prevail, subject, perhaps, to occasional variation, but existing notwithstanding at all times, to a formidable extent.

Through the benevolence of the public, clothing has latterly been provided for the most necessitous, leaving hospitals when convalescent; this, we know in looking beyond the walls of the hospital, has proved but a temporary relief, it having been clearly ascertained, in most cases, that the general distress of individuals has forced them to pawn (perhaps for less than a moiety of its value) the necessary clothing thus afforded, never to be redeemed, and what is worse, adding to the common danger, by a deposit of infected clothing in the magazine of the pawnbroker.

In order to meet the several cases now set forth, as, in our opinion, giving rise to and maintaining fever in this city, we proceed, with respect, to recommend,

That the influx of fever patients from the country should, as far as possible, be prevented, as measures for their recovery may be more successfully pursued in their several districts than in the city of Dublin.

That measures, by law, should be provided to prevent wakes, and also to compel all landlords of houses letting lodgings in rooms to poor persons, to whitewash with hot lime, and have the floors and stairs perfectly cleansed, at least once in every month, and oftener, should they be so

directed by a competent board, and that all the windows in said house should be made so as to open freely; and that unless these provisions shall be fully complied with, such landlord should be subject to a pecuniary penalty, and be precluded from recovering rent.

That a more strict attention be paid to the cleansing the streets, lanes, and courts, and that wherever practicable, public sewers be made through such places as at present want them.

That a constant supply of water should be kept in the public fountains at present existing, and that others should be erected in the poorer districts, particularly in in the Earl of Meath's liberty.

That in order to prevent a relapse, which too often occurs after a patient's dismissal from hospital, from want of clothing and unwholesome food, a convalescent house and cleansing house should be established in each district, into which such patients should be received for a reasonable time, and be provided with nourishment and clothing; and that such clothing should be so far considered as public property, by being secured from pawning, under similar protections for soldiers' necessaries; and that, in order to make the measures, herein respectfully submitted, as fully operative as possible, it appears to us expedient, that the city should be divided into districts, and that the fever hospitals at present existing appear to us to offer convenient centres.

That a central office of health be established in the city, which should be directed by persons of known ability and activity, who should generally have the power of enforcing cleanliness, and particularly, to see carried into

effect such measures as may be suggested by the District Committees for the suppression of fever.

That assistance might be derived from the medical attendants of dispensaries now instituted in Dublin, who would probably be applied to in the earliest stages of fever, and might send to the fever hospitals such as, in their judgment, could not effectually be relieved in their own habitations; and that such dispensary physicians should be required to report to their district committees respectively, whatever may occur to them as important.

We further feel ourselves called upon to observe that, since the commencement of the prevailing epidemic, one of the causes which contributed, in a great degree, to the diffusion of contagion, has been counteracted by the removal of beggars from the streets, through the valuable exertions of the Association for the suppression of Mendicity; to this association, which, with very limited funds has, in so short time, and so effectually accomplished an object of such evident advantage to the public, we would desire to draw the attention of government.

(Signed) RICHARD GRATTAN, M. D.
Chairman.

RICHARD DARLING.

RICHARD STEELE.

JOHN O'BRIEN, M. D.

ROBERT PERCEVAL, M. D.

No. IX.—F.

REPORT FROM THE PHYSICIANS of Sir Patrick
Dunn's Hospital, to the Governors of said Hospital.

Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital,
October 17th, 1818.

GENTLEMEN,

IN compliance with your desire, we have the honour to lay before you our opinion upon the question, whether any, or what remedial or preventive measures should be adopted for the suppression of the present epidemic fever, in addition to those now in operation, by the liberality of government. But, that the connection may be more evident between the steps we recommend to be pursued, and the source of the disease, we are anxious, in the first place, to be distinctly understood on this subject.

We have no hesitation in affirming, that a peculiar contagion is the sole cause of the present fever; that poverty alone will not produce the disease, nor yet the want of cleanliness; but that poverty and want of cleanliness, by contributing strongly to the operation of contagion, are the common instruments by which fever is excited.

In support of our opinion, we would shortly observe, that the rich and cleanly are not exempt from taking the infection when exposed to it, as appears by the numbers of medical and clerical attendants who have fallen sick in

the discharge of their duties during the past year. And on the other hand, during former periods of equal distress and disregard of cleanliness among the poor, when the peculiar contagion was absent, no such fever was prevalent.

It should also be recollected, that contagious fever is not a common disease among whole nations, whose wants are such, that numbers of them annually perish by famine, and whose habits of filth are the most disgusting.

It seems to us of the last importance, that the benevolent and the powerful should be deeply impressed with these views, as it is plain, if they be true, that it is in vain we set about to exterminate the present epidemic by feeding, clothing, and cleansing the poor, if we leave the contagion unattacked.

By the provident care of government, very extensive hospital accommodations have been opened in this city. The advantage has been incalculable. Not only the poor have received relief which must impress them with gratitude, but the ravages of the contagion have been warded off from the middle and upper classes of society, more especially by the rapid removal from their homes of their infected servants.

We have reason to believe, from communication with the attendants on other hospitals, that the accommodation at present, however extensive, is unequal to the number of applicants. This has been certainly the case for the last month at Sir Patrick Dunn's hospital.

Now we consider this to be a state requiring immediate remedy. So long as no applicant is refused admission, so long there are tolerable grounds for calculating the extent

of the epidemic; but so soon as a number daily are disappointed of accommodation, it is impossible to measure the existing distress. We would therefore lay it down as a principle, that we cannot have reasonable hopes of mastering the prevailing disease, until we have the power of accommodating every applicant.

The first step, therefore, that we would recommend for adoption is, the opening of additional hospital accommodation.

2dly,—We deem it necessary that the influx of fever patients from the country into Dublin, should be as much as possible prevented. It appears from the hospital returns, that a very considerable number of fever patients are admitted from the country. It is certain, that all along their way into town, at their lodgings, before and after they have been accommodated in hospital, and during their journey back, they must be at so many points the certain sources of contagion. We apprehend that the parishes in the vicinity of this city, if encouraged, would readily come forward to provide temporary places for the reception of their own sick poor.

3dly,—It is in vain the sick are cured, if contagion is not extirpated from their rooms, clothes, and furniture. Houses should be established in different districts of the town, for the purifying of these as well as the persons of the poor in fever. Such a one has been in operation in St. Peter's parish for upwards of four months, at an expense not exceeding three pounds per week.

4thly,—A minute and quick inspection of the dwellings of the poor should be immediately instituted and frequently repeated, that every facility may be afforded for their rapid disinfection; for the expenditure of time appears to us of the utmost consequence in any effort di-

rected to the suppression of an epidemic. We are so much convinced of this, that we cannot conclude this report without distinctly stating, that though we think that the best possible results may be expected from the adoption of the above measures, yet we are aware they have to struggle with an advanced state of the epidemic, and therefore their effects must be proportionately retarded.

We have, &c. &c.

(Signed) THOMAS TAYLOR, M. D.
WILLIAM STACK, M. B.

No. IX.—G.

REPORT OF THE MANAGING COMMITTEE
of the Whitworth Fever Hospital, Royal Canal.

Committee Room, 22d October 1818.

THE managing Committee of the Whitworth Fever Hospital have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of a letter signed by the Right Hon. Charles Grant, Chief Secretary, and dated at Dublin Castle the 8th October, 1818, in which is contained the following communication:—" I have to add, that it would be satisfactory to

“ his Excellency, that the report from the physicians
“ should be accompanied with a statement in writing
“ from the Governors themselves, in which they will be so
“ good as to deliver their sentiments fully on this highly
“ interesting subject, supporting the same with such
“ facts and observations as have been suggested by their
“ own experience in the management of the charity over
“ which they preside, more especially during the year in-
“ cluded in Doctor Renny’s report.”

The committee beg leave, in reply to such communication, and in obedience thereto, to submit to the consideration of government the following observations, prefacing them, however, by a reference to the report of the physicians in attendance at the Whitworth Fever Hospital, in which report the committee fully concur.

The first observation which the committee have made in consulting the journals of the hospital (from which they have drawn all the conclusions on the subject of fever, and its cure) is, that the number of deaths in proportion to the number of patients admitted, has been less in the Whitworth Fever Hospital than in any other similar institution in Dublin or its vicinity, there having been admitted into the hospital since it opened for the admission of patients, on the 25th of May 1818, until the day of October inst. 210 persons, of whom have died four only, giving an average of deaths of less than 1 in 50, a result which the committee, from every observation and inquiry, are led to attribute not only to the attention and ability of the attending physicians, Doctors M’Loghlin, Leahy, Morgan, Stack, and the matron, apothecary, and servants of the hospital, but also to the peculiar advantages which the Whitworth Fever Hospital enjoys in point of situation and construction, the air being most salubrious, and the hospital being so built as to admit of the most complete ventilation and diffusion of air through

all its wards and apartments, and the supply of water from the Royal Canal being also most abundant; and in consequence of these advantages the physicians have reported to the committee that, in no hospital with which they have been acquainted, has the recovery and convalescence of patients been so rapid. One defect, however, in the Whitworth Fever Hospital, the committee must here advert to, namely, the want of convalescent wards, occasioned by the deficiency of funds, a defect, however, which the committee hope will be speedily removed by the liberality of government, or an annual grant from Parliament, the Whitworth, being the only fever hospital in this city depending alone on voluntary contributions.

The next observation which the committee have made from the journals of the hospital is, the locality of the infection, and the permanence and fixedness of disease in certain places on the north side of the city; for from the journals it appears that certain lanes, and even certain houses, have been principally visited with the prevailing epidemic. Cole's-lane, running from Henry-street to Britain-street, has alone sent into the hospital, from its opening to the present time, thirty patients, one-seventh of the whole number admitted; and the the House of Retreat, on the Drumcondra-road, has sent into the hospital in the same period twenty-six patients, nearly one-seventh of the whole number admitted. Cole's-lane is situated at the back of a very extensive market, and is, together with some smaller lanes and passages running out of it, as the committee have been informed, full of slaughter-houses, and subject to the heaping of offal in large quantities; hence that lane and its immediate neighbourhood are constantly filled with noisome pestilential air, which must lead greatly to the spread of contagious dis-

ease, and to the want of effect in any preventive process which may be adopted in that neighbourhood. In adverting to nuisances, as connected with the present epidemic, the committee beg leave to call the attention of government to the increase in the selling of rags and old clothes, which has lately taken place in this city, and the consequent frequent exposure of those articles in very many streets. It is much to be feared that a great part of the old rags and garments which are thus exposed for sale are infected with contagion, and the consequences of having them passed through many hands can be easily imagined. Some regulation as to this trade in Dublin seems therefore very desirable.

From these observations it would manifestly appear that, it is in vain that hospitals are opened for the sick unless those who have as yet escaped contagion are kept from its influence by the strictest attention to cleanliness, ventilation of their dwellings, removal of all nuisances, and such matters as may be a focus for contagion. The disinfection of clothing, and the destruction of bedding in which fever patients have been, and above all, the keeping from the city, and confining to hospitals built in the suburbs, all persons living above two miles from Dublin, who shall be found labouring under contagious fever, are measures of prime necessity; for the committee are persuaded, that whilst fever prevails to more than an usual degree, it is in vain to purify and cleanse the city, and subject to medical process those fever patients within it, whilst a fresh flood of infection is permitted to pour in from the country.

In conclusion, the committee beg leave humbly to refer to the report of the physicians of the Whitworth Fever Hospital; a report, the truth of which the committee declare, has been fully established by their own observa-

tions and experience in the direction and management of the Whitworth Fever Hospital.

(Signed) THOMAS BALL,
Chairman of the Committee.

No. IX.—H.

REPORT OF THE PHYSICIANS of the Whitworth
Fever Hospital, Royal Canal.

Dublin October 1818.

WE, the physicians in attendance upon the Whitworth Fever Hospital, having been convened by the Governors of that institution, for the purpose of “taking into consideration a report lately presented to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, by Doctor Renny, Director General of hospitals, which contains an accurate list of the whole of the fever patients admitted into the general hospitals of Dublin for the year ending the 31st of August 1818, and of submitting our opinion, whether any remedial or preventive means ought to be employed beyond those which have been, and are at present in active operation throughout the city of Dublin and its vicinity, and are pointed out in an Act of Parliament, passed during the last sessions, for estab-

“ lishing fever hospitals, in order that his Excellency
“ may be the better enabled to decide upon the expe-
“ diency of taking further measures to check the epi-
“ demic,” beg leave to express our concern that the
measures hitherto employed, under the direction of his
Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, with the humane and be-
nevolent view of arresting the progress of fever in this
city, have been found inadequate to the end proposed, as
appears by the returns transmitted to us by our govern-
ors. This failure, so much to be lamented, we humbly
conceive to be the result not so much of any actual un-
fitness in the measures themselves, as of their inadequacy
to the object in view. The measures, so far as they went,
were good; but their inefficiency did, in our judgment,
arise principally out of the following circumstances:

1st. That they were not assisted by due regard to the
personal cleanliness of the sick poor and their families;
and that sufficient attention was not paid to disinfecting
the bed clothes and furniture of those attacked by fever;
a precaution essential, in as much as no one fact can be
more fully established than that the cure of the individual
infected can, without such purification, but little contri-
bute to the eradication of any contagious disease, more
especially of fever in large and populous towns.

2dly. That the hospital accommodation for fever
patients, however extensive, was, at times, actually ina-
dequate to the demand, and thereby caused an encreased
spread of contagion through the city.

3dly. That patients labouring under fever were received
from the country, many of whom were lodged in the city
for one or more nights previously to their admission into
hospital, and almost all of whom, after being discharged
therefrom, remained in the town for some time, and very

frequently relapsed; thus, in both cases, causing a further diffusion of fever.

4thly. That the system of cleansing the lanes, alleys, and back courts of the habitations of the poor, so necessary in itself, was, we fear, not carried to a sufficient extent; nor were there, for so large a city, a sufficient number of hands employed to render the system as well simultaneous as general; without which, it is obvious the end proposed never could be accomplished.

5thly. That public feeling has not been sufficiently alive to the necessity of taking advantage of the indulgence granted by the Commissioners of Excise, to open the windows of infected houses without increase of tax, and to the general necessity of furnishing the poor with ample supplies of water and pure air.

We must consider, as another cause of failure, the want of steady co-operation between the government and public, a co-operation absolutely essential to the due execution of those measures necessary for suppressing epidemic fever.

The foregoing statement of the causes of failure may in itself suffice to determine the measures, in our judgment, necessary to extinguish contagion.

They may be arranged as follows in the order of their importance:—

1st. Ample hospital accommodation always beyond the demand.

2dly. An extensive system of cleansing both as re-

gards the habitations and the persons and clothing of the poor.

3dly. Free ventilation.

4thly. Public co-operation, through the medium of district committees; and

5thly. The rejection of country fever patients, they being accommodated in their own vicinage.

For the accomplishment of the above purposes, we would, with great deference, recommend to his Excellency's consideration a division of the town into districts, an hospital in the centre of, or attached to each; such hospital districts to be again sub-divided into smaller, or city districts, each of which to be under the arrangement of its own district committee, consisting of a certain number of the inhabitants of such district, with two or more physicians, the whole to be regulated by one general committee, consisting of deputies from each district committee, and an equal number of commissioners to be named by the government.

(Signed)

P. M'LOGHLIN, M. D.

W. STACK, M. B.

W. J. MORGAN, M.D.

No. X.

CIRCULAR LETTER FROM MR. GRANT, TO THE PHYSICIANS
OF DISPENSARIES IN THE VICINITY OF DUBLIN.

Dublin Castle, 26th November 1818.

SIR,

IT appearing to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that a considerable number of the fever patients received into the Dublin hospitals have been transmitted from the surrounding country, and it being deemed necessary to make provision (in the event of a continuance of the prevailing epidemic) for the relief of such patients in their respective districts, and to exclude them, after such provision made, from the Dublin hospitals. I am commanded by his Excellency to request that you will, as soon as possible, convene a meeting of the governors or managing committee of the dispensary to which you are attached, and that, after communication with them, you will transmit to me, for his Excellency's information, answers to the following inquiries:—

- 1st. What has been the average number of patients labouring under fever in the district of your dispensary during each of the last twelve months?

- 2d. How many have been sent in each month to the Dublin hospitals?
- 3d. What extent of local hospital accommodation would be sufficient to preclude the necessity of transmitting patients to the Dublin hospitals from your district, supposing the fever to continue for the ensuing year with the same violence, and to the same extent, as during the past?
- 4th. Could a house be hired for a limited time for such purpose, and on what terms?
- 5th. What would be the expense of outfit, and supporting such establishment for six months?
- 6th. What portion of the sum required would be supplied by local contributions?

I have, &c.

(Signed)

C. GRANT.

No. X.—A.

GOVERNORS OF THE NEWCASTLE DISPENSARY, in reply to Mr. Grant's Circular of the 26th of November 1818.

Newcastle, December 4th 1818.

SIR,

IN pursuance of your letter of the 26th of November,

I lost no time in convening a meeting of the managing committee of our dispensary, in order to lay before them the queries proposed for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant. On the other side, I beg leave to enclose you our answers to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES LANGRISHE,
Archdeacon of Glendelagh.

Right Hon. C. Grant.

QUERIES.

1st. What has been the average number of patients labouring under fever in the district of your dispensary, during each of the last twelve months?

Answer. Not more than two cases of malignant fever within the last twelve months. Previous to that period, about the summer of 1817, the contagion was very general, but owing to the indefatigable attention and skill of our attending physician, Doctor Ferguson, it was happily got under with scarcely *one* instance of mortality.

2d. How many have been sent in each month to the Dublin hospitals?

Answer. One only during the whole year, and that was a lame woman, who had no attendance.

3d. What extent of local hospital accommodation would be sufficient to preclude the necessity of transmitting patients to the Dublin hospitals?

Answer. From the present healthy appearance of our district, the committee are of opinion that a local fever hospital would *not, at present, be requisite.*

4th. Could a house be procured, for a limited time, for such purpose, and on what terms?

Answer. A house could be procured at a very reasonable rate.

5th. What would be the expense of outfit, and support of such establishment for six months?

Answer. The expense of outfit, and support of such establishment, (should it hereafter become necessary) could not exceed the sum of £100, the district being rather circumscribed.

6th. What portion of the sum required would be supplied by local contribution?

Answer. On account of the subscription already raised for the support of the dispensary, the committee could not expect much assistance from local contribution.

In fine, under the existing circumstances, the committee do not conceive it necessary to burden either the

public or individuals with any contribution for a local fever hospital. But in case the contagion should return with symptoms so obstinate as to baffle the exertions and means of the dispensary, the committee will be prepared to submit a more circumstantial detail for the consideration of his Excellency.

At the same time that the committee make this report of the district of Newcastle, they think it incumbent upon them to direct his Excellency's attention to the situation of the adjoining district, extending from Rathcoole, by Saggard, to Tallagh, a region of considerable extent and population, and from which, from the absence of all medical aid, and its excessive poverty, contagion may be most likely to proceed, and extend even to the capital.

No. X.—B.

GOVERNORS OF THE SWORDS DISPENSARY
in reply to Mr. Grant's Circular of the 26th of November 1818.

*Swords Dispensary,
Dec. 4th 1818.*

SIR,

In reply to your's of the 26th ult. I beg leave to say,

that I lost no time in calling a meeting of the governors of this establishment. The Rev. the Provost will communicate to you the resolutions of the Board held yesterday at the Lord Chancellor's; I therefore transmit to you, for his Excellency's information, answers to the different inquiries.

1st. In fever, in my district, from

From 1st Decem. 1817 to 1st January 1818	25
Ditto 1st January to 1st February	41
Ditto 1st February to 1st March	40
Ditto 1st March to 1st April	30
Ditto 1st April to 1st May	29
Ditto 1st May to 1st June	30
Ditto 1st June to 1st July	35
Ditto 1st July to 1st August	42
Ditto 1st August to 1st September	48
Ditto 1st September to 1st October	34
Ditto 1st October to 1st November	35
Ditto 1st November to 1st December	34
	422

Sent from this to the Hardwicke Hospital,

2d. In December 1817	-	3
January 1818	-	4
February	-	2
March	-	4
April	-	3
May	-	28
June	-	12
July	-	9
August	-	21
September	-	5
October	-	7
November	-	10
		108

3d. Accommodation for thirty-two beds would be sufficient to prevent the transmitting of any patients from this to the Dublin hospitals.

4th. The unoccupied private soldiers' apartments at Swords' barrack, might be converted into an hospital, from which no inconvenience could arise, as they are totally distinct from the barrack-master's residence.

5th. The expense of outfit would be very trifling if government would give the bedsteads, bedclothes, furniture, &c. in the stores at the barrack at Swords. The expense of supporting the patients, supposing the hospital to contain thirty-two beds, at one shilling per day each patient, would amount to £.291 for six months.

Pay to nurses, servants, &c. &c.	}	included in the
Candles and fuel - - -		
		above.

Soap, a very essential article ; for washing the patients' clothes as soon as admitted, would both save the expense of hospital dresses, and in a great measure stop the progress of contagion.

6th. Referred to the Rev. the Provost for an answer.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOS. B. JACKSON.

*To Charles Grant, Esq.
Dublin Castle.*

No. X.—C.

REV. JOHN HUNT, in reply to Mr. GRANT'S Circular of the 26th of November 1818.

December 6th 1818.

SIR,

IN compliance with your letter of the 26th of November, I convened a meeting of the Governors of Bray Dispensary at as early a day as it could be done, to reply to your queries on the subject of the epidemic fever. I have now the honor to transmit the results of the meeting, and hope it will appear satisfactory to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

JOHN HUNT,

Curate of Bray.

Right Hon. Charles Grant.

GOVERNORS OF THE BRAY DISPENSARY, in
reply to Mr. Grant's Circular of the 26th of November
1818.

*Bray Dispensary,
Friday, 4th December, 1818.*

AT a meeting of the committee, governors, and managers, specially convened, to take into consideration inquiries made by command of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, in a letter addressed by Mr. Secretary Grant to the Rev. Mr. Hunt,

PRESENT,

The Earl of Meath	Rev. John Hunt,
The Rev. Sir S. S. Hutchinson, Bart.	John Nuttall, Esq.
William Westby, Esq.	Westby Brady, Esq.
	Thomas Wray, Sec.

Resolved, that the several queries be answered in their respective order, for the information of his Excellency.

Query 1st. "What has been the average number of
"patients labouring under fever in the district of
"your dispensary, during each of the last twelve
"months?"

Answer. The total were 345, averaging very nearly 29
per month; the actual numbers in each month
were, 31 in December 1817; 13 in January

1818; 33 in February; 22 in March; 33 in April; 34 in May; 26 in June; 47 in July; 52 in August; 20 in September; 24 in October; 10 in November.

2d. "How many have been sent in each month to the
"Dublin hospitals?"

Answer. Not one patient labouring under fever.

3d. "What extent of local hospital accommodation
"would be sufficient to preclude the necessity of
"transmitting patients to the Dublin hospitals
"from your district, supposing the fever to conti-
"nue for the ensuing year with the same violence,
"and to the same extent as during the past?"

Answer. The munificence and fatherly care of government accommodated the dispensary with a moiety of the barracks, then unoccupied, and it was fitted up in September last as a fever hospital, by a loan from the dispensary funds. Its beneficial effects have far exceeded the sanguine views of the governors, and, judging therefrom, will preclude the necessity of transmitting from hence one patient to the Dublin hospitals, provided we may be enabled to support the hospital, and that the influence of the fever does not increase.

4th. "Could a house be hired for a limited time for
"such purpose, and upon what terms?"

Answer. Prior to the accommodation from government, diligent search was made for a house suitable to such purpose, ineffectually.

5th. "What would be the expense of outfit, and supporting such establishment for six months?"

Answer. The cleansing and fitting-up the moiety of the barracks, with bed and bedding for 12 patients, (bed-steads were on the spot) and other indispensable furniture, provided with the most rigid economy, cost £.45, borrowed from the funds subscribed for supporting the dispensary, and for which the governors stand responsible. Supporting such an establishment for six months, supposing the entire to be occupied, might be about £90.

6th. "What portion of the sum required would be supplied by local contributions?"

Answer. Little could be got from local contributions.

The support of the dispensary has been made up with much difficulty, and that fund has been nearly exhausted by the loan to the hospital, anxiously endeavouring to put a stop to, and to guard against infectious fever.

(Signed) MEATH, Chairman.

(Copy) THOMAS WRAY, Sec.

No. X.—D.

GOVERNORS OF THE LEIXLIP DISPENSARY,
in reply to Mr. GRANT'S Circular of the 26th of
November 1818.

Leixlip, 7th December 1818.

SIR,

IN obedience to your letter of the 30th ult. I convened a meeting of the managing governors of the Leixlip and Celbridge united dispensary, to which I am medical attendant. I have now the honor of transmitting the answers which they have been pleased to give to the queries proposed by you, for the information of His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

I have, &c.

(Signed WILLIAM FERGUSON.

To the Right Hon. Charles Grant, &c. &c.

AT a meeting of the Managing Governors of the Leixlip
and Celbridge Dispensaries,

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF LEINSTER IN THE CHAIR.

PRESENT,

Rt. Hon. Lord Cloncurry,	Rev. Cæsar Otway,
Sir Ralph Gore, Bart.	Rev. Walter Burgh,
Hon. George Cavendish,	Rev. Gilbert Austin,
Rev. Archdeac. Langrishe,	Rev. N. Whiteland,
John D. Nesbitt, Esq.	Jeremiah Houghton, Esq.
William Morgan, Esq.	Rev. Pat. Sands.
C. B. Hill, Esq.	

It was resolved, that answers to the following inquiries should be transmitted to the Right Hon. Charles Grant, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.

 QUERIES.

1st. What has been the average number of patients labouring under fever in the district of your dispensary, during each of the last twelve months?

Answer. There have been labouring under fever, during the last twelve months,

In the district of Leixlip,	-	264
Ditto of Celbridge,	-	230
Ditto of Maynooth,	-	160
Total,	-	654

But no regular monthly return has been kept.

2d. How many have been sent in each month to the Dublin hospitals?

Answer. Of this likewise there has not been a regular monthly return kept, but it is believed there have been only about a hundred in the course of the year, but that was owing to the difficulty of conveyance.

3d. What extent of local hospital accommodation would be sufficient to preclude the necessity of transmitting patients to the Dublin hospitals?

Answer. We conceive that 20 beds would be sufficient.

4th. Could a house be hired for a limited time, and on what terms?

Answer. A house suited for the purpose can be had for £.20 per annum.

5th. What would be the out-fit and expense of supporting such an establishment for six months?

Answer. The expense of out-fit for 20 beds, according to the best calculation we can make on so short a notice, amounts to £306 : 10 : 8½. The expense of supporting the establishment (independent of medical salaries) for six months, is £307 : 10 : 0, being £51 : 5 : 0 per month.

6th. What portion of the sum required would be supplied by local contributions?

Answer. There have been already local contributions, amounting to £.300; but as Celbridge, in the county of Kildare, (although in the centre of a populous district, and therefore deemed most eligible for a fever hospital) is situated on the borders of the county of Dublin, the subscriptions above mentioned have been derived from gentlemen of both counties.

The governors beg leave to state, that if the sum granted by his Excellency should be hereafter liable to be raised by presentment off the county, it would, in a great measure, discourage local subscriptions.

Signed by order,

WILLIAM FERGUSON, M. D.

Celbridge, December 7th 1818.

No. X.—E.

GOVERNORS OF THE RATHDOWN DISPENSARY, in reply to Mr. GRANT'S Circular of the 26th of November 1818.

*Dispensary House,
Montpellier-place, 10th December 1818.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of

your letter of the 26th of last month, conveying the Lord Lieutenant's request, that a meeting of the managing committee of the Rathdown dispensary should be convened, for the purpose of communicating upon the subject of such letter, and of giving answers to the several queries contained therein. And in reply, I have the honor to acquaint you, that the managing committee, having taken into serious consideration the objects proposed, and minutely calculated the least possible expense that could reasonably be incurred in carrying the same into effect, now submit the following answers for his Excellency's information.

I have the honor to enclose, for his Excellency's further information, an extract from the dispensary books, shewing the exact number of fever patients relieved during each month of the last year.

Query 1st. What has been the average number of patients labouring under fever in the district of your dispensary, during each of the last twelve months?

Answer. On an average, there have been 39 patients labouring under fever during each of the last twelve months. (*See dispensary list herewith sent.*)

Query 2d. How many have been sent in each month to the Dublin hospitals?

	1817.	1818.	1818.
Answer.	December 27	April 19	August 7
	1818.	May 10	September 14
	January 6	June 12	October 11
	February 8	July 18	November 3
	March 15		

N. B. In addition to the above, about 50 fever patients obtained admission into Dublin hospitals, without assistance from the dispensary.

Query 3d. What extent of local hospital accommodation would be sufficient to preclude the necessity of transmitting patients to the Dublin hospitals from your district, supposing the fever to continue for the ensuing year with the same violence, and to the same extent as during the past?

Answer. The enclosed list shews that 200 persons *were actually sent* to hospital from this district during the last year. Of the 260 remaining patients, at least 100 would have been transmitted, were the hospital conveniently situated, and the physician empowered to compel them. Supposing therefore that the fever should continue with the same violence, and to the same extent as last year, 12 beds would, on an average, be constantly occupied; to afford which accommodation it would be necessary to have an establishment of sixteen beds.

Query 4th. Could a house be hired for a limited time for such purpose, and on what terms?

Answer. The committee are of opinion, that a fit and sufficient house could be hired for *so limited* a period, at the rate of about £.80 per annum.

Query 5th. What would be the expense of out-fit, and supporting such establishment for six months?

Answer. The committee are of opinion, upon the closest calculation, that the out-fit of such establishment could not cost less than £.180, and that its support for six months (including rent) would require £.275.

Query 6th. What portion of the sum required would be supplied by local contributions?

Answer. It is much feared that any subscription raised for the *support* of the fever hospital, would tend to decrease that for the dispensary, which is with difficulty maintained by its present funds. Contributions, however, might be expected for the outfit of the hospital, to the amount of about £.50 or £.60.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

THOMAS ARTHURE.

To the Right Hon. Charles Grant, &c. &c.

The Committee direct me to suggest (though not a matter referred to them in your letter) that as the Rathdown Dispensary district joins the Taney, greater economy and utility might be derived by establishing one hospital for both districts. Such an arrangement would tend materially to diminish the heavy expenses of rent, superintendence, &c. &c. attending on separate establishments; and a better government and system of regulation might be expected in proportion to the increase of size of the establishment.

Date.	Number afflicted with fever.	Number sent to Hospital.	Observations.
1817. December .	30	27	This table, though perfectly correct, gives only an approximation to the truth of the real state of typhus fever in the Rathdown district during the last year, as about 50 cases more found admission into hospitals without application at the dispensary.
1818. January	17	6	
February	16	8	
March .	29	15	
April .	23	19	
May .	23	10	
June .	45	12	
July .	61	18	
August .	46	7	
September .	54	14	
October .	39	11	
November .	28	5	
Total .	411	150	

The Rathdown district is very extensive, with a great density of poor population. It comprehends the populous towns and villages of Booterstown, Williamstown, Black Rock, Dunleary, Glassthoole, Dalkey, Leighlinstown, Cabinteely, Stillorgan, Newtown-park, and Donnybrook, terminating at one end very near to Dublin, and within two miles of Bray at the other end.

Since the commencement of the Pier of Dunleary nearly one thousand persons, denominated poor, have become residents, and have added considerably to the number of applicants at the dispensary.

No. XI.

CIRCULAR LETTER,

ADDRESSED TO THE GOVERNORS OF FEVER HOSPITALS.

Dublin Castle, November 24th 1818.

GENTLEMEN,

HIS Excellency the Lord Lieutenant having taken into consideration the reports received from the governors and physicians of the several establishments for the relief of fever patients in Dnblin, has deemed it expedient to adopt additional measures of prevention and relief, and to recommend others, in which your co-operation will be necessary, and in giving effect to which he relies with confidence on your countenance and support.

One of the measures which his Excellency is thus desirous of carrying into effect, is the establishment of a Central Committee, to be composed of one or more of the governors, and one or more of the physicians of the several fever hospitals in Dublin, with a view to promote communication and concert in the operations of these establishments. And I am commanded by his Excellency to request that you will depute one governor, member of your managing committee, and one of your physicians,

to meet (at times and places which shall hereafter be agreed upon) the persons in like manner to be appointed by other establishments, to confer with them on matters of general concern to your common object.

As it has been represented to his Excellency, that relapses have of late been very frequent, and that such relapses are in many cases to be imputed to the want of sustenance suitable to the reduced state of the convalescents from fever, I am further commanded to recommend, that a Soup Kitchen should be attached to your hospital, at which convalescent patients, who have been discharged from hospital, on producing a ticket from one of your physicians, may be supplied with a competent allowance of nutritious food for a limited number of days; and that an estimate be forthwith transmitted of the probable expense of supporting such additional establishment for six months.

I am likewise directed by his Excellency, to recommend to your consideration the expediency of appointing one or more Medical Inspectors, in aid of the physicians of your hospital, for a limited time, with a view to promote the more early discovery and removal of patients affected with fever to the hospital; and also to point out to your consideration any extraordinary measures of prevention or relief, which peculiar circumstances coming under their observation may suggest.

I am also directed by his Excellency, to call your attention to the consideration of further measures for the cleansing of the persons, clothing, and bedding of the poor, not merely of those received as patients into your hospitals, but also of the yet uninfected persons who remain in apartments whence such patients were removed; a measure which has been already carried into execution in

some parts of this city at a moderate expense, and which has been attended with salutary effects.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

CHARLES GRANT.

No. XII.

In compliance with the commands of the Lord Lieutenant, as expressed in the foregoing letter, the following Governors and Physicians were proposed by the governors of the different fever hospitals in Dublin, as members of a Central Committee of health, and were accordingly appointed by his Excellency:—

Mr. W. Harding, Gov.

Dr. Barker, Cork-street hospital,

Mr. James Henthorn, Gov.

Dr. Cheyne, House of Industry,

Dr. Perceval, Gov.

Dr. Taylor, Sir P. Dunn's Hospital,

Mr. Adair, Gov.

Dr. Stack, Whitworth Fever Hospital.

No. XIII.

DUTIES OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF HEALTH, AS
AGREED UPON AT A MEETING OF THAT BODY,
HELD ON THE 30TH DECEMBER 1818.

The Duties of the Central Committee are, in our opinion,

1st. To procure every information on the extent and nature of the prevailing epidemic.

To effect which, it appears that we ought henceforth to procure stated returns, from each of the fever establishments, of the number of patients admitted, discharged, cured, died and remaining, and the number of applicants refused admittance; also returns from each physician, specifying the general nature of the diseases under his care, and of their severity and duration.—Further, to procure from the inspectors of each division an account, as accurate as may be, of the number of fever patients who refused to be removed to hospitals, or who have been refused admittance; and to call upon the physicians of dispensaries to make returns similar to those required of the inspectors.

2d. To communicate to the governors of the fever hospitals our views of such measures as we should deem it advisable for them to modify or adopt.

3d. To communicate with government, when necessary, on the state of the epidemic, as well as the mea-

asures to be employed for preventing or arresting its progress.

Resolved, that we recommend the town be divided into four districts, each district in general to send its patients to the hospital from whence the district is named; and that each district be visited by the inspectors of each fever establishment respectively.

DUTIES OF INSPECTORS.

1st. Inspectors to visit houses from whence notices of fever have been sent; also particularly to visit all suspected houses in their division, and to give in a return of such houses to the governors of the respective hospitals in their districts, specifying the streets, and number of the houses, and repeatedly to visit the houses in which infected persons have been.

2d. They are to visit the habitation of every patient received into the hospitals, and to report as aforesaid the number of persons belonging to the family, their age and occupations, and the state of their accommodation with reference to health, and the origin of their complaint.

3d. To inquire into the prevalence of disease in the immediate vicinity, the existing nuisances, the supply of water, both in that vicinity and the division in general.

4th. To inquire whether any and what means have

been employed for the suppression of disease, and with what effect.

5th. To inquire into the state of population of the infected places in their respective divisions.

That the returns of medical inspectors be digested under the following heads, and that each inspector be furnished with a book, for the purpose, by their respective hospitals.

1st. Number and names of fever applicants, with the occupation of males, and of the nearest relatives, if females.

2d. Date of inspection.

3d. Residence.

4th. Number in family.

5th. Number of persons previously ill.

6th. How many days ill when admitted into hospital.

7th. Why not admitted into hospital.

8th. Houses and rooms requiring whitewashing.

9th. Nuisances to be removed in houses, including infected clothes and bedding.

10th. Nuisances of neighbourhood.

11th. Probable cause of disease.

12th. Supply of water.

13th. General observations.

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be transmitted immediately to the governors of the respective fever hospitals, with segments of a map of Dublin, illustrative of the division into districts, for their approval.

No. XIV.

TO WILLIAM GREGORY, ESQ.

DUBLIN CASTLE.

No. 27 Bagot-street, Dublin,

December 8th 1819.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Central Committee of Health, appointed by order of Government on the 26th day of November 1818, to communicate to you, for the information of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that they have continued their meetings from the 16th day of December 1818 to this day; and have endeavoured, as far as in their power, to fulfil the duties intrusted to their

care. In the discharge of these duties the sum of one hundred pounds granted to them has been expended, and their account of its expenditure is in readiness to be examined. They beg to be informed if it is his Excellency's pleasure that they should continue to meet for any objects connected with the health of the city.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. TAYLOR, M. D. Sec.

TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF HEALTH.

Dublin Castle,
15th December 1819.

SIR,

I HAVE received and submitted to the Lord Lieutenant your letter of the 8th instant, stating, by desire of the Central Committee of Health, that they have expended the sum granted to them, and that their account of its expenditure is in readiness to be examined, and requesting to be informed if it is his Excellency's pleasure that the Committee should continue to meet.

I am directed by his Excellency to request that the account and vouchers may be submitted to the Commissioners of Public Accounts to be audited.

His Excellency has commanded me to signify his desire, that you will acquaint the gentlemen who compose the Central Committee of Health, that after due consideration of all circumstances, he is of opinion that any further meetings of the Committee may be dispensed with; as the objects for which they were assembled, and to which their exertions have been so laudibly directed, have for the present been happily accomplished; and that you will convey to them his Excellency's warmest approbation and thanks for the zeal and ability with which they have discharged the duties intrusted to them.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. GREGORY.

To Thos. Taylor, Esq. M. D.
&c. &c.

No. XV.

GOVERNORS OF THE HOUSE OF INDUSTRY
in reply to Mr. Grant's Circular of the 26th of November 1818.

*House of Industry,
Dec. 11th 1818.*

SIR,

I AM desired to transmit herewith an estimate of the probable expense of supporting a Soup Kitchen for supplying daily 800 convalescent patients discharged from hospital, with one quart of nutritive soup, and twelve ounces of wheaten bread, on producing a ticket signed by one of the physicians; and should this measure be approved of, the governors will be prepared to commence on Monday next.

In obedience to the commands of his Excellency, they beg leave to recommend Dr. Cha. H. Orpen, and Robert Adams, Esq. Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, to be appointed Medical Inspectors attached to the hospitals of the House of Industry for a limited time; and I am further directed to add, that the six Medical Inspectors* will have the charge of the six divisions

* Upon the suggestion of the Central Committee the inspections of these gentlemen were subsequently limited to the district of the House of Industry.

of the city and its vicinity, as divided under the jurisdiction of the police.

With respect to the further measures for the cleansing of the persons, the clothing, and bedding of the yet uninfected, who remain in apartments from which fever patients have been removed, I am directed to state, that the Governors are apprehensive that the execution of this duty to any beneficial extent would be productive of considerable expense to the public; and when it is considered that if fifty persons are admitted daily into the fever hospitals, and that those who remain in the infected apartments will probably amount to two hundred, that the bedding is generally composed of straw which must be replaced, for it cannot be disinfected; that their blankets will in many cases not bear the process of cleansing, and that none can be forced to resort to the disinfecting house; the governors conceive that this duty would be more effectually performed by the several parishes, could they be induced to undertake it; and it may not be irrelevant here to remark, that in one of the hospitals under their care upwards of one hundred and fifty suits of clothes are disinfected in each week, and that one hundred and forty-five extern poor are daily employed in cleansing and whitewashing the habitations of the poor in Dublin.

I am desired further to add, that the governors, being extremely solicitous to give every aid in their power to the benevolent intentions of the Lord Lieutenant, will, if it is his Excellency's pleasure, make the experiment; and in that view they are in search of, and have employed intelligent persons to inquire for a suitable house in their vicinity to be obtained on reasonable terms; but to what number of parishes they would be enabled to extend their assistance, they cannot determine without more ex-

perience than the performance of this salutary duty within their own establishments has hitherto furnished.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

W. ABBOTT,
Med. Clk.

*To the Right Hon. Charles Grant,
&c. &c.*

ESTIMATE by the Governors of the House of Industry of the expenses of supporting daily, eight hundred patients convalescent from fever and discharged from hospital, with one quart of soup, and twelve ounces of wheaten bread each:—

12 oz. wheaten bread	-	2d.
1 quart of soup	- -	1½
Fuel, attendance, &c.		0½

To bread and soup for 800 patients at 4d. £.13. 6s. 8d. daily, or £.2427. 13s. 4d. for six months.

FORMULA FOR PREPARING THE SOUP.

1 Cwt. of beef,
½ Cwt. split pease.

14 Pounds of rice,
7 Pounds of salt,
10 Pounds of oatmeal,
One dozen of leeks,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Dozen of cabbage,
 $\frac{1}{2}$ Pound of pepper, and
100 Gallons of water.

To be macerated over a slow fire for twenty-four hours
in a covered boiler.

(Signed) By order,

W. ABBOTT,
Med. Clk.

December 4th 1818.

No. XVI.

LETTER FROM WILLIAM GREGORY, Esq. to
the Governors of the Fever Hospital in Cork-street.

Dublin Castle, 12th June 1819.

GENTLEMEN,

IT appearing from the daily returns made to the Lord

Lieutenant of the number of fever patients in the several hospitals in Dublin, that the epidemic which had so long prevailed has greatly diminished, and that there is reason to hope the additional accommodation, which has been afforded in the hospital under your management, will no longer be required.

I am commanded by his Excellency, to signify his desire that the extraordinary expenses which it was found necessary to incur to meet the pressure of fever, and to check the progress of disease, may cease from the 5th of July next, and that you confine your expenditure from that period to the amount of the ordinary estimate submitted by you to Parliament for your establishment. And I am to request that you will, as soon as possible after the 5th of July, furnish an account of the extra expenses incurred by you in affording such additional accommodation for the half year to that period.

His Excellency has further directed me to convey to you his warmest acknowledgments for your zealous and successful co-operation in checking the progress of disease on the late pressing exigency.

I have the honor to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient,

Humble servant,

W. GREGORY.

No. XVII.

*Brief Account of the proceedings of an Association formed
in St. Peter's Parish, for the suppression of epidemic
fever.**

IT appears, from a report which was submitted on the 28th January 1818, to the inhabitants of St. Peter's parish assembled in vestry, that, of the poor of that parish, there applied for admission into the fever hospitals of Dublin,

Patients.

- 154 from September 1st 1814 to January 26th 1815.
- 198 from September 1st 1815 to January 26th 1816.
- 154 from September 1st 1816 to January 26th 1817.
- 460 from September 1st 1817 to January 26th 1818.

At this parochial meeting, a COMMITTEE was appointed to carry into effect such measures as were deemed necessary for the suppression of epidemic fever, and was also authorized to call upon all the parishioners for pecuniary aid and personal assistance.

* For the materials from which this account has been formed, the Editors are indebted to Dr. Healy, a member of the association.

The Committee commenced their operations on the 29th of January, by the purchase of straw, and such articles as were requisite for whitewashing the houses of the sick, and directed their secretary to request, that the Governors of the House of Industry, and the Commissioners for Paving, would order the removal of any nuisances which might be regularly reported to these boards. At this meeting, the physicians who attended were formed into a Medical Committee, with a view of determining any question which might be proposed to them by the general committee.

On the following day, the Medical Committee divided the parish into nine districts, and gave their inspection to a like number of medical practitioners, whose duty it was, from personal examination, to make a return of the houses in their respective districts in which fever should be discovered, in order that a general return of the state of the parish might be prepared. A carriage for the removal of the sick to an hospital was placed at their disposal; as was also a supply of straw, fuel, food, and clothing, to be issued to their order; and, finally, they were to direct the removal of infected families, during the cleansing of their dwellings, to a house where means were provided for washing and purifying from infection their clothes and persons.

In the address to the parishioners at large, which contained a statement, that the progressive increase of epidemic fever was such as to demand the immediate adoption of preventive measures, an expectation was confidently expressed, that every individual in the parish who was able, would contribute either personal or pecuniary assistance towards relieving the miseries of the poor, and lessening the danger from infection to which all classes of the community were exposed.

The proceedings of this association were carried on with vigour. At a meeting which was held on the 30th January, it was resolved, that the medical gentlemen who undertook the work of inspection, should report weekly on the state of fever in the parish; and that hand-bills should be circulated among the poor, explanatory of the means of preventing contagion; as the address contained in these hand-bills was prepared by professional gentlemen, who had bestowed much attention on the subject of contagion, we shall transcribe it for the benefit of the reader.

“ The progress of the epidemic fever has become most alarming; the calamities arising from this disease are but too well known to you; miserable poverty and death are its consequences. The inhabitants of St. Peter's parish are now engaged in devising means to diminish or remove its chief cause—infection; and for this purpose, the co-operation of all classes is most earnestly solicited. With these views, they request your attention to the following advice, which they entreat you to lose no time in adopting, as they believe it to be intimately connected with your safety, as well as that of your family and fellow citizens. When sickness appears among you, let immediate notice be sent to the vestry room of St. Peter's parish, in order that the required assistance may be afforded without delay. Do all in your power to promote the cleansing of your dwelling; let your floors and furniture be washed, and the walls whitewashed with fresh slaked lime. Let the straw beds of any sick family be destroyed, and fresh straw be provided. Let all articles of bedding or clothing, used by the sick, be immersed in water as soon as possible, and finally washed in boiling water if possible. Should any family desire to remove from their dwelling, and have it thoroughly cleansed, a temporary habitation will be provided for them, and every means

employed to destroy the infection, without expense to the inhabitants of that dwelling. Avoid, as much as possible, all unnecessary intercourse with the sick. On no account, let a healthy person sleep with the sick, or on an infected bed ; and endeavour, by cleanliness in your persons, and change of your clothes, to protect yourselves from the infection which now threatens you. Intemperance, and sitting up late at night, are known to contribute much to produce fever ; these you are most earnestly requested to avoid. Admit the fresh air to your rooms as much as you can, and, so far as circumstances will permit, avoid crowding them with inhabitants, and remain in the open air as much as possible, consistently with your occupations. Clean straw will be furnished to all poor families in which fever has appeared during the last month."

The association of St. Peter's parish naturally turned their attention to the accommodation of the sick poor ; and, in answer to an application to government on this subject, made on the 2d February, they learnt that additional wards had been provided by the governors of the House of Industry for fever patients, and that further accommodation would be supplied when necessary. At this early stage of their proceedings, the association discovered that their measures must prove ineffectual, without the co-operation of the other parishes of the city, and therefore, they resolved to send a deputation to the Lord Mayor, to request that an early meeting of the citizens of Dublin might be called, in order that a general effort should be made in the city to arrest the progress of contagion.

The Medical Committee reported, that, in every place which they had visited, they found among the poor the strongest disposition to co-operate in the plans resorted

to for the extermination of contagion, together with a conviction of the utility of the measures adopted, and a lively gratitude for the interference of the more wealthy parishioners in their behalf.

It was deemed necessary to institute an inquiry into the manner of disposing of the bodies of those who fell victims to the epidemic in the different fever hospitals, the result of which was, that, in the House of Recovery, Cork-street, and in Steevens's hospital, persons who die of fever are delivered to their friends, when claimed, and a coffin provided when it is demanded. At the House of Industry, the bodies are washed, placed in a coffin, and delivered to their friends when called for, otherwise the bodies are buried at the expense of the respective hospitals. On this occasion, the Medical Committee declared as their opinion, that the hazard of contagion is less from the dead than from the living body, and that the measures of carefully washing the body, and placing it in a coffin as soon as possible, are sufficient to meet the danger.

Visitors from the association were appointed to communicate with the medical officers, relative to the removal of the sick; and with the whitewashing committee, relative to the cleansing of infected apartments; after which they were conjointly to order straw and food, should they deem it necessary, and to furnish lists of houses which required to be whitewashed, and nuisances to be removed in their respective districts, so that a general return of these should be prepared for the consideration of the Committee; and it was resolved to purchase flannel to be made into waistcoats and petticoats for such of the sick as had been resident in the parish for six months, or should be recommended by the Medical Inspectors, who were also authorized to relieve the poor parishioners.

when by so doing disease might be removed or prevented.

The Commissioners of Excise, at the request of the association, having promised not to levy the usual tax on the opening of the windows and fire places in the houses of the poor, when this should be thought conducive to a salutary ventilation, the Medical Inspectors were directed to make a return, through the ministers and churchwardens, to the Commissioners, of all houses to which they thought this indulgence ought to be extended.

On the 18th of February Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital was opened for the reception of one hundred patients in fever, to be maintained by government; a measure which was considered by the association as highly advantageous to the indigent sick of St. Peter's parish; and in order to facilitate the removal of the sick to that hospital, £.30. were given to its governors by a member of the association, for the purchase of a carriage to convey the sick thither.

On the 6th of March, the first general report of the proceedings of the association was made under the heads—1st, of Medical Inspection; 2dly, of relief afforded to the poor; 3dly, of whitewashing; and 4thly, of expenditure. The inspection was so carefully performed that scarcely a case of disease escaped detection in all this large parish; the details are too long and particular to admit of being transcribed: the other heads of the report contain a condensed account of the proceedings of the association, and are therefore presented to the reader.

RELIEF.

Provisions from 8th February to 4th March.

Rations given to sick, consisting of bread and	
soup - - - -	603
Do. do. to convalescents, of oatmeal and	
potatoes, - - -	760
Each ration cost about 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ d	
Straw from 31st January to 4th March, one	
sheaf to a ration - - -	768
Flannel jackets and petticoats - -	30

WHITEWASHING.

Two flights of a stair-case and landing being	
considered as a room - - -	1021
Vaults in the neighbourhood of Fitzwilliam-	
square, at the request of an anonymous	
subscriber of £.5. - - -	29

EXPENDITURE.

Provisions - - - -	£18	13	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wages at stove, fire, and cooking	4	11	0
Straw - - - -	17	14	2
Wages at Straw store - -	1	10	0
Whitewashing - - -	25	0	0
Flannel - - - -	10	0	0
Further supply ordered - -	10	0	0
Fever carriage - - -	30	0	0
	£117	8	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

The operations of the association were conducted by the following sub-committees—1st, The Medical Committee, which undertook the most important and hazardous duty, namely, that of detecting disease in its haunts. 2dly. The Committee of Relief, which was actively engaged in procuring and preparing for distribution, food, straw, and flannel for the poor. 3dly, A Committee which undertook to superintend the cleansing and whitewashing the houses of the poor. The General Committee at first met every morning at half past nine, and subsequently twice a week while the measures of the association were carrying on.

In the second general report, which was read at the first meeting of the association in April, the Medical Inspectors announce an increase of cleanliness and comfort in the habitations of the poor as the result of the exertions of the parish, and also some reduction of the number of fever patients at a time when disease was becoming more frequent in other parts of the city. The committee had now taken and fitted up a house in Cathedral-lane, with a view of subjecting infected bed-clothes and apparel to such processes as are best adapted to destroy infection; the linen clothes to be washed, the woollen to undergo the effects of a high degree of temperature. Servants were engaged, and a washing and stoving apparatus, on a small scale, at an expense not exceeding £.10, was erected, and the whole was placed under the management of an active committee.

The Managing Committee of Sir Patrick Dunn's Hospital, entering into the spirit which animated the proceedings of the association of St. Peter's parish, directed that a return should be made weekly to the General Parochial Committee of the names and habitations of such patients, resident in the parish, as shall be received into

that hospital, in order that an inspection may be made of their dwellings, and an inquiry into their characters and wants, and such assistance afforded by the parochial association as may relieve their distresses. These weekly returns were referred to the Medical Inspectors, with a request that they would report such persons to the general committee as shall appear to them objects for relief.

In the 3d general report, the Medical Committee stated, that a system more efficacious than any hitherto adopted had been brought into action for the complete destruction of contagious effluvia, to which they earnestly requested the attention of the public, in the hope that its extension to every part of the city might contribute to check the progress of fever, which still continued to extend itself. The following is an account of the cleansing house in Cathedral-lane, which formed a novel and important part of the system of purifying from infection the persons and houses of the poor.

The cleansing house was opened on the 15th April, since which time 75 people have had their persons, clothes, and bedding disinfected; 29 of their rooms have been whitewashed, and they have been supplied with straw. Small numbers were admitted at first, in order that the persons entrusted with the care of the house might be gradually trained to do the work laid out for them with accuracy, punctuality, and economy; and that the people might not be disgusted by loss of clothes or other disappointments. The amount of outfit and current expenses have been £38 : 14 : 7½, of which, the sums paid for wages, fuel, and soap, must be considered as recurring expenses, which, amounting to £2 : 11 : 2, being subtracted, £36 : 3 : 5½ is to be considered as

the outfit expense. The recurring expenses, at the present scale of exertion, may be stated for a fortnight :

Fuel, Wages, and Soap	...	...	£2	11	2
House-rent	...	...	1	10	0
Wear and Tear	...	...	0	7	0
			£4	8	2

The usual manner of proceeding at the cleansing house was, first, to warm water; 2d, to send for the people that are to come in; 3d, to wash their persons with warm water and soap; 4th, to dress them in the house-clothes; 5th, to give them their dinner in a separate comfortable room; 6th, to stove their woollen clothes; 7th, to wash their linen clothes; 8th, to dry the linen clothes in the stove after the woollen have been removed; 9th, to give them supper; 10th, to dismiss them between 5 and 6 o'clock; 11th, to stove the house-clothes which had been worn during their stay in the house. The people seemed to enter into the plan with sufficient readiness, induced no doubt, in some degree, by the expectation of a comfortable meal. But the Committee had proofs of their strong desire to have their clothes washed, with a view of cleansing them from contagion; as for this purpose they had frequently incurred an expense they could scarcely afford. They found that appearing clean facilitated their getting employment. The most common difficulty to the removal of a family to the cleansing house, arose from the fear of losing possession of their lodging, yet this was obviated by application to the landlord, who is in general interested in freeing it from contagion.

During the month of May, 196 individuals, who had been exposed to contagion, had their persons washed, and clothes purified in the cleansing house, which establish-

ment was so well received by the poor, that more wished to partake of its benefits than could be attended to.

The exertions of the association were continued during the summer and autumn. In September, finding their funds nearly exhausted, and the inhabitants becoming less zealous in the cause, a general meeting of the association was called, at which, after stating the two important and hitherto neglected measures, to which they wished to direct the attention of the public, namely, 1st, to stop the importation of fever into the city, not by denying accommodation, but by providing it in small temporary hospitals in the vicinity of the town, for the poor of the adjoining parishes; secondly, to adopt a general and vigorous system of purifying the clothes, bedding, persons, and houses of the infected; they called upon the parishioners for further contributions, and addressed a letter, calculated to rouse them from that apathy into which they then appeared to be sinking: in consequence of this address, subscriptions were obtained, which enabled the association to continue their exertions till the month of December, when the following statement of their disbursements was laid before the committee:—

Treasurer's account, from January 31st to December 2d 1818.

Relieved by provisions, 22170 persons, store, &c.	£.	s.	d.
...	376	17	10
Whitewashing	67	16	1
Clothing distributed	21	3	11½
Straw, &c.	80	13	10
Incidentals	37	12	11½
Cleansing house, (admissions 1476) rent, &c.	115	7	3
Fever Carriage	30	0	0
	£729	11	11
Balance in Treasurer's hands	...	10	5 11
Total contributions to this day	...	£739	17 10

It was resolved at this, the last meeting of the fever committee of St. Peter's parish, that the committee were formed for two distinct objects, viz. first, for the extermination of contagious fever in the parish; and secondly, that their exertions might become an encouragement and model for the remaining parishes in Dublin. That the fulfilment of the first object depended on their success in the second. Resolved, that the fever committee of St. Peter's parish have met with no co-operation from the remaining parishes in Dublin, and therefore, although by their exertions, much disease has been remedied, and much distress relieved, yet the epidemic continues in this parish to a considerable extent. Resolved, that a sum of £729 : 11 : 11 has been expended for the purposes of the fever committee, and that a sum of £10 : 5 : 11 remains in the hands of the treasurer, which, even at the present economical rate of expenditure, cannot serve for longer than fourteen days, when the exertions of the committee must have a period, unless the parish shall think proper to advance additional funds. Resolved, that the cleansing house be continued in operation, so long as their funds will permit, and that their expenditure be limited to this object

No. XVIII.

PROCEEDINGS AT WATERFORD, for the relief
of the indigent sick. *

TO CORNELIUS BOLTON, ESQ.

MAYOR OF WATERFORD.

WE, the undersigned, request you will be pleased to call a general meeting of the inhabitants of this city, to take into consideration the most effectual means of affording relief to the Waterford poor.

Waterford, January 3 1817.

R. Waterford,
T. Wallis,
Richard Davis,
John Harris,
Matthew Poole,

Thos. L. Mackesy,
William White,
J. B. Bracken,
John Strangman,
Benjamin Graham.

In pursuance of the above requisition, the attendance of the inhabitants of this city is requested on Tuesday the 7th instant, at one o'clock, at the Town Hall, for the purpose in said requisition mentioned.

COR. BOLTON, Mayor.

January 4, 1817.

* For the following valuable documents the editors are indebted to Dr. Bracken, one of the Physicians to the Fever Hospital in Waterford.

AT A MEETING held in the Town Hall, on Tuesday the 7th instant, pursuant to requisition addressed to the Mayor of the city of Waterford, the following resolutions were agreed to:—

CORNELIUS BOLTON, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair.

Resolved, 1st.—That the very high price of the necessary articles of food, and the great want of employment among the various classes of tradesmen and labourers, render it necessary to adopt immediate measures for affording relief to the poor of this city.

2.—That in order to afford effectual assistance, it is necessary to ascertain, as accurately as possible, the number of unemployed poor capable of working, and also the number of persons incapable of labour, and without the necessary means of subsistence in the different parishes.

3.—That for the foregoing purpose a committee be now appointed, to consist of the Rectors and Curates, Parish Priests and Coadjutors of the several parishes, the Medical Gentlemen residing in the city, and the following persons—

John Harris,
Joshua Mason,
Major Gahan,
Michael Evelyn,
John Leonard,
Samuel S. Davis,
Francis Davis,

Rev. Mr. Marshall,
George Ridgeway,
Henry Downes,
H. A. Bayley,
Richard Farrell,
Thomas B. Murphy,
Thomas King,

Isaac Jacob,	Thomas Wallis,
Richard Cherry,	Richard Davis,
Edward Courtenay,	William Hunt,
Joshua Strangman,	Joseph Wakefield.
William White,	

With the Committee and Visitors of the sick poor.

Which Committee is recommended to adopt such measures as may enable them to make the most speedy and correct report upon the state and numbers of the poor requiring relief.

4.—That it appears to this meeting, that the employment of the labouring poor should form an important part of the plan to be adopted for their relief.

5.—That a subscription be now entered into to carry the object of the first resolution into effect.

6.—That the following persons be appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions from such of our fellow-citizens as are not present at this meeting, and that said committee be also requested to consider and report the best mode of forwarding and fulfilling the object of this meeting.

The Mayor,	James Wallace,
Bishop of Waterford,	John Strangman,
Dean of Waterford,	Henry H. Hunt,
John Harris,	Thomas Jacob,
William Newport,	Jeremiah Ryan,
Joseph Strangman,	Rev. Mr. Marshall,
Richard Davis,	Thomas Wallis,
William White,	John Leonard,
Michael Evelyn,	T. B. Murphy,

Rev. Mr. Quirk,
Edward Courtenay,

Major Gahan,
Doctor Bracken.

7.—That a Committee be appointed to wait on the Roman Catholic clergy, and inform them of resolution 3; and that the bishop inform the clergy of his establishment.

8.—That this meeting do adjourn to Monday 13th instant, to receive the reports of the committees appointed this day, and to adopt such further measures as may then be deemed necessary.

9.—That those resolutions be published once in each of the Waterford newspapers.

C. BOLTON, Mayor.

The Mayor having left the Chair, and the Lord Bishop of Waterford being called thereto,

Resolved, that the thanks of this meeting are hereby given to the Mayor for his readiness in calling this meeting, and for his conduct in the chair.

R. WATERFORD.

At an adjourned meeting of the inhabitants of Waterford, held at the New Town Hall, this 13th day of January, 1817,

CORNELIUS BOLTON, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair.

The following reports were laid before the meeting, and unanimously received:—

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE.

The Investigating Committee, appointed by the general meeting of the inhabitants of Waterford and its vicinity, held at the Town Hall on the 7th instant, having completed the duty entrusted to them, of examining into the state of the poor of this city, report as the result of their most careful investigations, that they amount to—

	<i>Families.</i>		<i>Individuals.</i>
Destitute poor, unable to work -	808	containing	2672
Labouring poor, in want of employment, but willing to work -	729		3174
Persons in employment, but unable to earn suf- ficient support	344		1455
Total	1881		7301

That the distress is in very many cases extreme, as is manifested by

First,—The nearly universal want of beds and bedding.

Secondly—that of body clothing, except sufficient to cover nakedness, and even not that in all cases.

That, in a great number of instances, articles of clothing, particularly those of females, are in pledge for small sums, and, if not speedily redeemed, will be sold, thereby precluding the owners from out-door work, should it be procured for them.

Your committee discharge with pleasure the duty of observing, that instances of imposition and exaggeration rarely came within their knowledge, and that relief was in some cases, declined until necessity should press more urgently.

That fully concurring in the sentiment which has unanimously resulted from the present inquiries, viz.—That the distress is great and urgent,—the committee do recommend, in the most earnest manner, that relief, at least sufficient to support nature, be administered by straw, food, and fuel, without delay, as the existence of many may depend on it.

The committee conclude by declaring, as an opinion that results from the foregoing statement, that if funds, far exceeding any former contribution, be not collected, they will fall very short indeed of the benevolent intentions of the general meeting, and the urgency of the case under consideration:—ordinary contributions would prove totally inadequate.

JOHN SHEEHAN,
Chairman of the Investigating Committee.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE, appointed at a General Meeting of the inhabitants, held at the New Town Hall, Waterford, January 7th, 1817, to solicit subscriptions, and to consider the best mode of affording relief to the poor.

We recommend the appointment of a Committee of thirteen persons, five to form a quorum, who should be entrusted with the superintendence and controul of the loan and subscriptions—your committee being decidedly of opinion, that the sums advanced by way of loan should be faithfully returned, and without diminution.

That another committee of forty-two persons should be also appointed, who shall visit and distribute to approved objects the intended relief; which committee shall be empowered to add to their number, from time to time, such persons as may be proposed, and admitted by a majority of said committee, at any of their meetings.

We recommend the appointment of a treasurer, into whose hands shall be paid all sums received, and who shall be authorised to pay any orders on account of said sums, being signed by at least three of the superintending committee at one of their meetings.

We also recommend the appointment of a secretary, who shall keep the papers and accounts.

Your committee are of opinion, that the superintending and distributing committees should meet at least once in each week, to concert such measures as they may deem expedient for carrying into effect the intentions of the meeting.

We recommend that the superintending committee be requested to lay in such quantities of provisions as may appear necessary, and to adopt such measures as may tend to reduce the price of articles consumed by the poor.

That tickets for food and fuel shall be distributed to destitute persons, incapable of labour, gratuitously, to such extent, and in such manner, as may be regulated by the distributing committee, subject, however, to the approval of the superintending committee.

That the tickets for food and fuel shall be also sold, at reduced prices, if hereafter deemed advisable by the two committees.

That a Soup Kitchen shall be immediately established in a central part of the city, and that a supply of straw, for bedding, shall also be procured, to be at the disposal of the committees.

Your committee are of opinion, that employment in labour of the poor, capable of working, should, as expressed in the fourth resolution passed at the general meeting, form an important object of attention; but, on account of the difficulty of the subject, they are not prepared to point out modes of employment at present. They therefore propose, that the superintending committee shall be authorised to adopt such plans, for carrying into effect this part of your intentions, as may appear to them adviseable, and consistent with due regard to the other objects recommended.

Your committee have deemed it most prudent not to proceed in the further collection of subscriptions, until the report of the committees shall be laid before the ge-

neral meeting; we therefore suggest the re-appointment of the present committee, for the purpose of soliciting loan and subscriptions.

R. WATERFORD.

Resolved—That, in pursuance of the foregoing reports,
a Superintending Committee of thirteen persons be now appointed, to consist of the following persons:—

Lord Bishop of Waterford,	Jeremiah Ryan,
Mayor of Waterford,	Rev. Mr. Sheehan,
Dean of Waterford,	Edward Courtenay,
H. H. Hunt,	Robert Jacob,
Francis Davis,	Joshua Strangman,
Edmund Skottowe,	John Harris.
John Leonard,	

That the following persons be appointed a Committee, to visit and distribute relief to the necessitous poor:—

Hon. and Rev. R. Burke,	H. A. Bayley,
Rev. Richard Hobson,	Joseph Wakefield,
Richard Ryland,	William White,
Richard Fleury,	W. M. Ardagh,
Henry Fleury,	T. B. Murphy,
Henry Bolton,	James Larrissey,
James Marshall,	Paul Carroll,
Pierse Power,	Joseph White,
Eugene Condon,	Samuel S. Davis,
Thomas Power,	Nathaniel Peet,
John Quirk,	Edward Peet,
G. Connolly,	James E. White,

Rev. Nicholas Cantwell,	Dr. Poole,
Beresford Gahan,	Hammond,
William Hunt,	Bracken,
Henry Downes,	Hearne,
Richard Cherry,	Briscoe,
Thomas Goouch,	Barker,
William Lawson,	Mackesy,
Richard Farrell,	Michael Kenny,
Michael Evelyn,	Thomas Kehoe.

That WILLIAM NEWPORT and Co. Esqrs. be appointed Treasurers, and that JOHN HARRIS, Esq. be appointed Secretary.

That the following persons be appointed a Committee to investigate the state of the poor in the suburbs of the city of Waterford on the north side of the river, and to report to the superintending Committee:—

The Clergy resident in that district,	
William Newport,	Richard Pope,
H. H. Hunt,	Anthony Jackson,
Thomas Nevins,	William Sinnot.

That it is the opinion of this meeting, that essential relief might be afforded to the poor by the LADIES of this city forming themselves into a society for providing CLOTHES for FEMALES and CHILDREN, and making for that purpose monthly collections of small sums; and the Committees appointed this day are requested, in case such a plan should be adopted, to afford them every assistance in the way of information, or by an advance of money, if it shall appear necessary.

That all classes of the inhabitants of Waterford and its vicinity be most earnestly requested to adopt, to the

utmost extent to which they may be found applicable, the manufactures of this city, of every description.

That the thanks of this meeting be returned to the investigating Committee, for their zealous and laborious efforts in examining into the condition of the poor, and for the very ample and accurate report and statements presented by them this day.

That these resolutions be published once in the Waterford papers.

CORNELIUS BOLTON, Mayor.

The MAYOR having left the chair, and the LORD BISHOP being called thereto,

Resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be given to the MAYOR, for his highly proper conduct in the chair.

R. WATERFORD.

THE MAYOR

REQUESTS a Meeting of the inhabitants at Eleven o'clock to-morrow (Wednesday) at the Town-Hall, to consider of the most effectual means of relieving the distresses of the people.

Waterford, June 10th 1817.

CITY OF WATERFORD.

AT a numerous and highly respectable meeting of the inhabitants of Waterford, held this 11th day of June 1817, CORNELIUS BOLTON, Esq. Mayor, in the Chair, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted :

Resolved, That we have seen, with the deepest regret, the increasing privations of the industrious and indigent portion of our fellow-citizens, and that we feel it to be incumbent upon us to adopt immediate and effectual measures for their relief.

Resolved, That by the report of the Superintending Committee, laid before this meeting, it has been fully ascertained that there is a sufficiency of oat-meal, oats, and whole meal, for the supply of this city till the produce of the next harvest can be brought into the market.

Resolved, That a subscription shall be immediately entered into for the purpose of reducing the prices of provisions.

Resolved, That the Mayor be requested to write to the noblemen and gentlemen who do not reside in the city, but who have property in it, to solicit their aid for the relief of the poor.

Resolved, That the subscriptions now entered into, and hereafter to be raised, be placed at the disposal of the following gentlemen :—

John Leonard,
William Milward,
Joseph Strangman,
John Harris,
William Hunt,

Thomas Scott,
Robert Hunt,
Richard Cherry,
Benjamin Moore.

Resolved, That the following gentlemen be appointed a Committee to solicit subscriptions :—

Alderman Sarjent,
Richard Davis,
James Larisy,
John Sheehan,
Thomas Jacob,

Henry Alcock,
Beresford Gahan,
Joseph Leonard,
James Marshall.

Resolved, That the resolutions of this meeting, together with the names of the subscribers, and the sums thereto annexed, be published in the Waterford Papers, and also a list of such persons as may hereafter subscribe.

CORNELIUS BOLTON, Mayor.

The MAYOR having left the chair, and Alderman SARGENT having taken it,

It was unanimously resolved, That the thanks of this meeting be returned to the MAYOR for the promptitude with which he assembled his fellow citizens, for the attention and propriety with which he conducted the proceedings of the day, and for the firm but humane and bene-

volent manner in which he exercised on Tuesday, the power invested in him as Chief Magistrate of the city.

HENRY SARGENT, Chairman.

RELIEF OF THE POOR.

THE SUPERINTENDING COMMITTEE, appointed in January last to manage the fund raised for the relief of the poor, submit to the subscribers the following account of the expenditure of said fund:

*Superintending Committee to the fund for
the relief of the poor*

Dr.

1817,

June 21st. To amount of subscriptions £.1830 7 9

1817,

Cr.

	£.	s.	d.
By 8 tons 16 cwt. 2. qrs. 2 lbs. of oatmeal issued by the Distributing Committee to the poor, <i>gratis</i> , at £.26 17 11½ per ton -	237	7	9½
7 tons of ditto used for soup establish- ment, from 9th March to the 21st June, at ditto -	188	5	8
z 2			

	£.	s.	d.
Amount brought forward -	425	13	5½
Expenses of Soup Establishment, exclusive of meal, from 9th March to 21st June - - -	268	13	8
Coals given to the poor by the Distributing Committee - -	151	6	11
Straw for beds, issued by the Distributing Committee - -	23	1	5
Paid by Distrib. Committee for white-washing rooms, and commission to 7 shops for issuing meal -	73	4	8½
Advanced to relieve the poor at north side of the river - - -	30	0	0
Clerk's salary, from 12th March to 21st June - - - -	14	10	0
Loss on 34 tons 11 cwt. 3 qrs. meal, sold to the poor at the reduced price of 5d. per pottle - -	264	15	6
Cash handed to W. Milward, Esq. the new Assistant Treasurer - -	416	16	6
Amount of subscription list remaining due, handed him to collect - -	162	5	7
	579	2	1
	£1830	7	9

Accounts due, not discharged, £57 5 7

By order of the Committee,

J. HARRIS, Sec.

Waterford, July 4th, 1817.

AT A MEETING of the Subscribers to the Fund for the Relief of the Poor, convened by public advertisement, and held at the Chamber of Commerce, November 4, 1817,

The DEAN of WATERFORD in the Chair.

RESOLVED,

That the following statement from the Committee be received :

That the balance remaining on hands, and also the arrears of subscription, of the sum raised for the relief of the poor, shall be expended in whitewashing the apartments, and furnishing straw for bedding to the poor, paying particular attention to those parts of the city stated by the medical attendants of the House of Recovery to be much infected by fever.

That the Committee be requested to continue their services as long as it may be necessary to see the foregoing resolution carried into effect.

Waterford November 4, 1817.

	£.	s.	d.
To amount of subscriptions including what was paid by the old Committee			
£579 2s 1d.	-	-	2955 16 1
Amount of loan fund	-	-	2220 0 0
Oatmeal and flour, sold 248 tons. 0 cwt.			
1 qr. 7 lb.	-	-	5286 11 10
Potatoes sold	-	-	99 18 7
	10562	6	6

By paid for 205 tons, 19 cwt.

1 qr. 23 lb. oatmeal and flour	-	-	5638 4 6
1312 bar. 10 st. 8 lb. oats			1835 3 5
155 0 0 potatoes			142 7 3
Amount of loan fund			2220 0 0
Expense of selling meal			79 13 5
Soup establishment	-		300 4 10
Printing, &c.	-		55 18 7
Storage, &c.	-	-	78 18 6
Manufacturing oats	-		98 17 9
Deficiency on change			1 19 10
Bad coin	-	-	7 9
* Balance	-	-	110 10 8
			10562 2 6

* The Balance was expended in whitewashing, and purchase of straw for beds.

DYSENTERY.

AS a very general disposition, and even a strong anxiety have been manifested to provide Relief for the Poor labouring under the above disease, a Meeting of all persons so disposed is requested at the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE this day, at the hour of one o'clock precisely.

☞ The attendance of the Medical Gentlemen is particularly requested.

September 8th 1818.

A VERY respectable meeting of inhabitants of this city took place on Tuesday, in the Chamber of Commerce, at which the Right Hon. Sir JOHN NEWPORT, Bart. M. P. presided. The object of the assembly was to take into consideration the situation of the poor, who are at present so severely afflicted by Dysentery, and to devise the best and speediest means of affording them relief. A long conversation took place on this important subject, and one uniform feeling of compassion, and an ardent de-

sire to ameliorate the situation of the afflicted, prevailed in every mind. After mature deliberation, resolutions to the following tenor were unanimously adopted:

“ That dysentery prevails in this city to a great extent, and requires the immediate assistance of the humane and charitable to counteract its effects, and to check its alarming progress.

“ That a subscription be now entered into for the promotion of these objects, and that the application of the money, thus to be raised, be strictly and exclusively confined to the relief of the poor labouring under dysentery.

“ That in order to augment the funds now raised, a Committee of six gentlemen be appointed, and that they be requested to solicit subscriptions from the inhabitants for an object so essentially connected with their best interests.

“ That the administration of the funds collected be entrusted to the care of a Committee of nine gentlemen, to be applied in supplying proper food and nutriment, and in the accommodation of persons severely suffering under the disease, where it shall be found practicable and necessary.

“ That the medical gentlemen of this city be requested to favour the Committee of Management with their advice and assistance, as far as their engagements will allow.”

The collecting Committee consists of the following gentlemen:—

Major Gahan,	Mr. W. Hobbs,
Rev. Mr. Marshall,	Mr. T. Kehoe,
Rev. Mr. Fleury,	Rev. Mr. H. Fleury.

The Managing Committee consists of the following gentlemen:—

Mr. John Strangman,	Mr. Thomas Scott,
Mr. Jeremiah Ryan,	Mr. Richard Davis,
Mr. H. Hunt,	Mr. W. White,
Rev. Mr. Condon,	Rev. Mr. Marshall.
Mr. Edmund Skottowe,	

These Committees have proceeded without delay, and with the warmest zeal, to the performance of the duties required at their hands. The Collecting Committee have spent two days in soliciting donations from their fellow-citizens, and the Managing Committee have advanced considerably in making preparations for affording to the poor, plain broth, or gruel, as may be deemed most beneficial, and also for giving accommodation to those most severely afflicted, and who may be totally destitute of the means of support. The north wing of the Leper Hospital has been granted to the Dispensary, where the accommodations of which we speak, as far as circumstances will permit, will be expeditiously prepared. These measures will unavoidably be attended with no small expense; but they are designed as instruments for preserving the lives of the poor, for exterminating a dangerous and fatal malady, and for saving from its ravages the wealthier inhabitants of the community. These are motives to benevolent liberality and laborious exertion of the most impressive character, and cannot but have a powerful and simultaneous effect on the part of those who have the means of relieving the wretchedness of others. Self-interest, of the dearest kind, here co-

operates with the injunctions of Christian charity, and both will assuredly produce the valuable consequences which are anticipated.

Donations will be received by any of the gentlemen of the collecting Committee, and also at the offices of the newspapers.

Amount of subscriptions lodged in the Bank of Messrs.			
Scott and Ivie,	...	...	£365 : 18 : 2

Patients in the wards for dysentery, from 10th September 1818, to 20th January 1819.

Admitted.

Males	...	...	27	} 54
Females	...	...	27	

Discharged	...	...	...	40
------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Died.

Males	...	...	9	} 14
Females	...	...	5	

54

CONVALESCENT FUND.

At a GENERAL MEETING of Subscribers to the Fund for the Relief of CONVALESCENTS leaving the House of Recovery,

JEREMIAH RYAN, Esq. in the Chair,

The following Resolutions were adopted:

Resolved—That the report of the proceedings of the Convalescent Committee, presented and read by Dr. Bracken, be received.

That Thomas B. Ryland, Esq. and Dr. Conolly, be appointed to discharge all the servants of the institution, and hand the keys of the house in John-street to Mr. Newport. They are also requested to hand over the several articles of furniture, bedding, &c. &c. purchased for the use of the institution, to the Committee of the House of Recovery, and to return all such articles as have been borrowed, and to give orders on the treasurer for any expenses which may necessarily have been incurred since the statement was made out.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to William Newport, Esq. for his liberality in affording the use of the house in John-street to the Committee.

That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Ma-

naging Committee, for their active exertions in carrying the objects of this charity into effect.

On the motion of Dr. Bracken, seconded by Francis Davis, Esq. resolved, that the balance of the Funds of this institution remaining in the treasurer's hands, be divided between the two institutions for the relief of destitute orphans—viz. two-thirds of said balance to the Trinitarian Orphan House, Henessy's Road, and one-third to the Orphan House on John's Hill.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE for managing the
FUND raised for poor CONVALESCENTS from FEVER,
&c. &c.

As the labours of this Committee are now terminated, it has been deemed advisable to submit an account of their proceedings and expenses, to the body of the subscribers to this fund.

In January, 1819, a public Meeting of the inhabitants of this city was convened by Sir John Newport, Mayor, to take into their consideration the alarming state and increase of contagious fever in this city and its neighbourhood. The requisition for this meeting was signed by the Bishop of Waterford and many respectable inhabitants. Documents concurring to prove the increase of the epidemic fever were laid before this Assembly, in which Sir John Newport presided, and were fully considered; the result of which was, that subscriptions were entered into for raising a fund for the relief of poor persons convalescent from fever, and for cleansing and ventilating infected apartments. The management of this fund, and the details of relief, were entrusted to a Committee appointed at

the time; and the division of the city into six districts, as already established by the Sick Poor institution, was adopted, as being attended with many facilities for the better carrying your objects into effect. At the same meeting, Mr. W. Newport granted a house in John's-street, free of rent, to be used as your Committee might think fit.

The first meeting of the Committee took place on the 19th January, at which three visitors and a medical person were appointed to each district. On the following day they met at the house in John's-street, when it was determined to fit it up for the reception of poor convalescent patients; bedding and other necessities were also ordered to be procured for its future inmates. It was also determined to hire proper persons to act as house-keepers, superintendant, whitewashers and porters. Your Committee again held its meetings on the 21st, 24th, 25th, and 26th of same month, in furtherance of the objects committed to their care. At this period, the committee for managing the fund for patients afflicted with dysentery, had offered to this Committee the utensils and apparatus for making soup and gruel, which were thankfully accepted, and 100 gallons of soup were ordered to be made daily for fever convalescents. After this period your Committee did not find it necessary to hold its meetings more frequently than once in a week, which have been continued regularly every Tuesday evening until the present time, a Sub-committee sitting every Monday for the same period.

In order that the proceedings of this Committee may be the better understood, the account which was drawn up by our secretary for Dr. Barker, of Dublin, who had been commissioned by the Lord Lieutenant to inquire into and report on the state of contagious disease in the province of Munster, is here subjoined:

“ The Convalescent Institution has been established for the purpose of affording relief to the families of all persons received into the Fever Hospital, and nourishment to themselves on their return; and for cleansing the houses and clothes of the infected. A house has been fitted up, provided with cisterns and boilers for washing, and a kiln for drying and fumigating the infected clothes; and into this house are received all children left destitute by the removal of their parents to the Fever Hospital, or those who have not changes of clothes, till the operation of cleansing is effected. Notice is given at this house of all fresh cases of apparent fever, and lists are sent every morning from the Fever Hospital of the persons admitted or dismissed on the preceding day.

“ For the purpose of carrying the objects of the institution into effect, a Committee of twenty-four, including six medical gentlemen, has been appointed. The city has been divided into six districts, to each of which three members of the Committee, a physician, and a certain number of whitewashers, are attached. It is the duty of the physicians to call every morning at the reception-house, and inquire if any fresh cases of illness have occurred in their respective walks or districts; if so, to visit; and, if infected with fever, to send them to the Fever Hospital. It is the duty of the other members also to attend every morning, and to examine the lists from the Fever Hospital; to send the whitewashers to cleanse the houses of patients admitted on the preceding day, and then to visit their houses, as well as those of all convalescents dismissed from the hospital, and supply them with soup, fuel, straw, &c. &c. A member from each district forms a Committee of six for managing the expenditure and economy of the establishment.”

The body clothes of persons admitted into the Fever

Hospital had hitherto been washed at that institution. In the beginning of February, when the pressure of disease was severely felt at the Fever Hospital, it was determined by your committee to have the clothes of such persons washed at the house in John's-street, and thus to relieve the Fever Hospital of some of its arduous labours. The convenience of a good kiln, with a copious supply of water, enabled the Committee more easily to perform this duty. Early in the same month, the Committee for managing the fund for dysenteric patients presented your institution with some blankets, sheets, bed covers, &c. &c. which had been used in the wards appropriated to these patients in the Leper Hospital. They also voted for the use of this institution the balance of the fund remaining in their hands, which was accepted by your Committee, on the condition of supplying to poor persons in dysentery such relief as they were entitled to from the fund raised for their use.

In the course of the labours of your Committee, they have had at various times to make application to the magistracy to have collections of filth removed, which applications were always attended to and complied with. But your Committee regret that they have it to state, that many nuisances were of too considerable an extent to be removed by their endeavours, unless at an expense which they did not consider themselves authorised to employ on such objects.

Although it was determined that the funds entrusted to the management of this Committee should be expended solely for the use of persons inhabiting this city, and the houses on the roads immediately adjoining; yet in many instances it was deemed advisable to relieve strangers found within our precincts, many of whom were accordingly received into the house of the institution.

About the middle of April it was resolved in your Committee to discontinue the supplies of soup, and to issue, in its stead, oatmeal or bread; at the same time, the quantity of coal for each family was diminished; the supplying of straw was, however, continued as before, together with the usual operations of whitewashing infected apartments, and washing the clothes of the sick and of their families. These measures were pursued until the beginning of June, when, from the great and remarkable decrease in the number of fever patients, and from the desire of continuing for a long time such parts of their plan as were judged to be most efficacious, your Committee reduced the establishment of the convalescent house to one servant for washing clothes, and two men for whitewashing; they also deemed it prudent to discontinue the supplies of bread, oatmeal, and fuel, and gave notice to the fever house Committee, that the body-clothes of patients admitted into hospital were no longer to be cleansed at the house of this institution.

When the last-mentioned changes were resolved upon, your Committee was not aware that a bill had been brought into Parliament, which has since passed into a law, by the provisions of which their labours were soon to be superseded; otherwise it is probable they would have continued those supplies to the poor without diminution, which it was painful to them, at any time, to diminish or to discontinue.

In referring to the monthly lists of the sick in fever during the period of their exertions, your Committee cannot but observe the gradual decrease in number; with which improvement their labours have at least concurred, if they have not contributed to this amendment of the public health. They ardently hope that their successors in this branch of medical police, may experience a similar

gratification, by the epidemic fever speedily subsiding to the ordinary level of febrile disease.

Your Committee cannot conclude this report without endeavouring to impress upon the subscribers to this fund, the necessity that exists of making some provision for great numbers of poor children, who unhappily became Orphans during the late seasons of calamity. This Committee has had frequent and ample opportunities of observing how many have been reduced to this helpless and deplorable condition, and they understand that both the Orphan Institutions in this city are filled almost beyond the means of support. But they trust that those whose families have been protected from the desolations of disease will not be forgetful of such mercies, but will enable those parental institutions to extend their fostering care to many who are at the present moment pining in neglect and misery, without the necessaries or the comforts which their tender years require.

Return from the Fever Hospital of Admissions, in which relapses and country patients are included..

1819	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June
	377	456	357	302	237	169

Return of Persons sent to the Fever Hospital by the Physicians of the Convalescent Institution, in periods of 4 weeks.

1st period	2d	3d	4th	5th
392	231	186	167	132

Admitted into the Convalescent House in John-street, from the 29th January to 29th June, one hundred and fifty-seven persons.

FEVER CONVALESCENT FUND.

Expenses incurred at the Convalescent Institution since its commencement, viz.

Outfit, including necessary expenses incurred in fitting up the house in John-street, bedding, blankets, and sundry small articles of furniture,					£52	1	10
Whitewashing, including lime, labour, &c.					104	12	3
Straw,	...	...	...	...	55	13	2
Coal,	...	...	...	...	121	13	3
Soup,	...	...	...	...	145	18	6
Meal and bread	...	...	...	...	72	15	7

Sundry expenses at the house in John-street, including food and fuel for the inmates, servants' wages, washing the clothes of the infected, &c.					£106 17 10
Stationary					15 15 6
Bad money					0 2 10
Total expenditure					<u>£675 11 2</u>
Total receipts as per Treasurer's book ...					£761 12 7
Expended as per foregoing account,					£675 11 2
In Treasurer's hands ...					66 8 5
In Sub-Treasurer's hands					19 13 0
					<u>£761 12 7</u>

Exclusive of sundry articles included in the outfit, which remain on hands at the house in John-street.

WILLIAM CONNOLLY, *Chairman.*
 RICHARD JACOB, *Secretary.*

WILLIAM WHITE, Treasurer.

If from the above account we deduct £116. 2s. 4½d. for Furniture, principally bedsteads, (which cannot be fairly charged to any one year,) we shall find that each patient stands the house within a fraction of £1. 2s.

the 1st of March 1818, and ending the 1st of March 1819.
JOSHUA NEWSOM, Treasurer.

FOR RELIEF OF INDIGENT SICK.

357

[illegible]

Average cost of each Patient £1. 0s. 4d.

Amount of the Stranger Convalescents Fund . . . 100*l.* 0*s.* 0*d.*
 which was distributed to destitute strangers on their quitting the Fever hos-
 pital, either in small sums of money, or some necessary article of clothing.
 The operation of this charity ceased the 7th of October 1818.

THE LADIES' CHARITABLE COMMITTEE,

*Submit to the Public the following statement of their Receipts
 and Expenditure, from the 10th of February 1818, to the
 10th of February 1819:—*

EXPENDITURE.				£.	s.	d.
Balance due Treasurer, per last Account	.	.	.	3	7	7
Expended for Flax	.	.	.	99	9	6
Hackling	.	.	.	5	4	9
Women for spinning	.	.	.	69	11	1
Weaving	.	.	.	28	12	5
Bleaching	.	.	.	12	2	9
Mending Wheels, and sundry small expenses for the School	.	.	.	3	9	0½
Wages to Girls spinning in School	.	.	.	8	16	7
Mrs. Allen's Salary	.	.	.	7	10	0
Printing	.	.	.	2	9	1
Balance on hands	.	.	.	1	4	11½
				£241	7	9

RECEIPTS.				£.	s.	d.
By Sale of Linen	.	.	.	83	9	7½
By Ditto Diaper	.	.	.	9	14	0½
By Ditto Thread and Tow yarn	.	.	.	79	15	5
By Ditto Flax and Tow	.	.	.	4	2	10
By Donations received, including 25 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i> from the Governesses of the Institution of the Friends of Poor Room-keepers	.	.	.	27	1	5
By Subscriptions for one Year, ending the 10th of Feb. 1819	.	.	.	37	14	5
				£241	17	9

STATE OF THE FUND for the Relief of the Sick
Poor, for the year 1818.

WILLIAM MORRIS, Treasurer.

<i>Dr.</i>		£.	s.	d.
To Balance from 1817	-	303	7	5½
Arrears of 1817 collected	-	2	2	9
Subscriptions for the year 1818	-	243	12	5½
Donations for the year 1818	-	209	11	9
Interest allowed by Messrs. Newport	-	9	12	0
		<u>£768</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

<i>Cr.</i>				
By Cash distributed by Visitors	-	378	19	5
Ditto paid for straw	-	21	5	2
Printing, Stationary, Collecting, Coals, &c. &c.	-	22	5	9
Arrears of Subscriptions for 1818, not collected	-	32	16	9
Balance handed to present Treasurer	-	112	19	4
		<u>£768</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>

Number relieved 12,162.

Subscriptions for employing the industrious poor in 1819	290	0	0
Subscriptions for encouraging the Yarn and Linen Ma-			
nufacture	45	10	0
Loan for Do. from the Corporation	100	0	0
Do. Do. Chamber of Commerce	100	0	0
Do. Do. from Bank of Messrs. Newport	100	0	0
Do. Do. from Messrs. Scott's and Ivie	100	0	0

Besides the collections stated in the Appendix, the subscriptions raised in this city for the relief of the poor, by various means, amount to a very considerable sum.

The expenditure of the House of Industry
for the year 1818, amounts to £3690 12 6

Of which about £790. arose from subscriptions and donations.

In October 1818, an association was formed for providing for destitute Protestant orphans, the subscriptions and donations for the support of which amount to £341.

The Trinitarian Orphan Society for Roman Catholic orphans has existed for a few years, and supports about fifty children of both sexes, principally by means of subscriptions and donations.

No. XIX.

*Addresses to the Poor of Ballytore.**

NOTICE

TO TRADESMEN AND LABOURERS.

WHEREAS this town and neighbourhood have again been visited by Fever, the introduction and extension of which have been promoted by want of cleanliness and fresh air, in and about the cabins of the poor, endangering the safety of all.

We, the undersigned, believing it to be our duty to use every probable means, consistent alike with the laws of humanity and self preservation, to arrest this formidable disease, hereby give Notice,

That, having observed with regret, that most of those cabins which we caused to be cleansed and whitewashed last spring, very soon became quite as dirty as before.

* The Editors are indebted to Dr. Davis, of Ballytore, for the following addresses to the poor inhabitants of that village, on the subject of fever.

We now feel convinced how ineffectual our best directed efforts must prove, unless assisted by the regular and constant exertion of the poor themselves.

That, therefore, to discourage as much as possible that shameful and dangerous disregard to decency and cleanliness, so common amongst the labouring classes, *We are unanimously determined* to give employment to such persons only as keep their cabins clean and whitewashed, and provided with a chimney; their windows hung on hinges, or otherwise capable of admitting fresh air, and the yard or road before their houses free from dunghills, or other filth.

And we will, in a few days, publish advices and directions explaining the most likely means of avoiding contagion, after which we purpose affording every assistance in our power to any poor person, *observing such advices and directions*, who may be visited by this truly alarming disease.

And as it is our opinion, that disease is often conveyed and widely disseminated by the strolling beggars, who traverse the country in all directions, it is our determination to discourage their visits, and we strongly recommend to our neighbours to use great caution in admitting them to lodge in, or frequent their houses.

Ballytore, 7th September 1818.

THOMAS BOATE,
P. P. FITZSIMMONS,
JOHN FARMER,
WALTER FARMER,
RICHARD GRATTAN,
WILKINS GOODWIN,
WILLIAM GOODWIN,

EDWARD KELLY,
JOHN THOMAS,
THOMAS BEWLEY,
THOMAS GLAIZBROOK,
WILLIAM WALSH,
JAMES WHITE,
EBEN. SHACKLETON,
JOHN DAVIS,
JOHN HARDY,
RICHARD SHACKLETON,
WILLIAM LEADBEATER,
WILLIAM WRIGHT,
GEORGE SHACKLETON,
MICHAEL CULLEN.

ADVICES

FOR THE PREVENTION OF FEVER.

AS dirt and bad air very much promote Fever, the following directions for cleansing and ventilating are strongly recommended :—

Let your doors and windows be kept open in the day.

Scrape your floor with a shovel, and sweep it frequently; also the yard before the door.

Whitewash your walls inside and outside the house, with lime slaked in the house, and while it continues bubbling and hot. Let this be done once a month, if possible, while the fever remains in the country.

Keep your persons and clothes, furniture and utensils, perfectly clean and sweet, by frequent washing; keep your hair short, and well cleaned, by combing once a day at least.

Let your dunghills be made at least three perches from the door, as the vapour arising from them is believed to generate fever.

To encourage a current of fresh air, let there be a good chimney, and let the windows be well hung, so as easily to open.

To avoid spreading infection, let none but the necessary attendants go into infected houses; and on no account attend wakes of deceased fever patients.

Let all strolling beggars be prevented from entering your houses, as they often carry contagion from one house to another.

As soon as a family has been released from fever, by recovery or death, let all the above directions for cleansing and airing be immediately put in practice.

Besides which let the straw beds be burned, and all the clothes in the house be plunged in cold water; then wrung out and washed in hot water, with soap and potashes.

Let every box, chest, drawer, &c. be emptied and

cleaned; and let the floor under the patient's bed be strewed with lime freshly slaked.

Let no person, on recovery, go into a neighbour's house, or to a place of public worship, for fourteen days.

N. B. The benefit of this ADVICE you will soon feel, and persevering in your attention to it will, UNDER GOD, preserve you from all the variety of wretchedness occasioned by infectious fever.

Attend to it then with spirit and punctuality, for be assured that Cleanliness and good air will check disease, improve your health and strength, and increase your comfort.

TAKE WARNING!

THE Fever Committee hereby give Notice, that they have ordered their Distributor to withhold assistance from such persons as bring sickness on themselves by neglecting the printed "Advices for the Prevention of Fever."

But to deserving persons who exert themselves whilst in health, as therein directed, they will, in cases of fever,

afford every relief and comfort compatible with their means.

To such they now offer lime gratis for whitewashing, and small windows at half price.

25th January, 1819.

Ballytore,

No. XX.

ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO NONO

GEORGII III. REGIS. CAP. XLI.

An Act to establish Regulations for preventing Contagious Diseases in Ireland.

[14th June 1819.]

WHEREAS it has become highly expedient to provide for and secure constant attention to the health and comforts of the inhabitants of Ireland, and for the prevention of contagious disease, more especially in the cities and great towns thereof; and that for that purpose Officers of Health should be annually appointed in all cities

and large towns, and that such officers should also be appointed in such towns, parishes, and villages in the country, as shall think it proper or necessary to adopt such a measure; be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, That within one calendar month next after the passing of this Act, and within one calendar month after the twenty-fifth day of March in the year one thousand eight hundred and twenty, and in every subsequent year, in every city and town in Ireland, which shall contain one thousand inhabitants, or upwards; and in every city and large town where the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland, shall think fit to direct that this Act shall be carried into effect, the inhabitant householders of each and every parish in such city or town, assembled in vestry, shall and they are hereby required to elect and appoint any number of persons not less than two, and not more than five, to be Officers of Health for such parish, for the year ending on the twenty-fifth day of March next after such election, and until new Officers of Health shall be in like manner appointed for such parish for the year ensuing.

II. And be it further enacted, That such Officers of Health, so to be elected and appointed, shall act in the execution of this Act without any salary, fee, or reward whatsoever; and that the expenses to be incurred by such officers in the execution of their Duties under this Act, not exceeding such sums as shall be specified and determined on, and limited and directed at the vestry to be assembled for the choice of such officers, or at any subsequent vestry to be called by the said officers, shall be raised and levied on the inhabitants of such parish, in such manner and form as other parochial assessments are

raised and levied, and shall by the said officers of health be applied to the purposes of this Act, and the expenditure thereof shall be accounted for by the said officers in such manner as other parochial assessments are accounted for, and either at such times as other assessments are accounted for according to law, or at such other times and periods of the year, and as often from time to time as shall be directed at the vestry to be assembled for the appointment of such officers, or at any other vestry to be called by two inhabitants of such parish; and that copies of all such accounts shall, once in every year, before the twenty-fifth day of April in each year, be transmitted by such Officers of Health to such public officer, or office or place in Dublin, as shall be from time to time directed by the Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland for the time being, or his or their Chief Secretary.

III. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for the inhabitant householders of any parish, town, or place whatever, in Vestry assembled, in any part of Ireland, to appoint such Officers of Health for such parish, in case they shall think fit and expedient so to do; and to raise such sum and sums of money, to be levied and accounted as directed by this Act, in like manner as by this Act is required to be done in cities and large towns as aforesaid.

IV. Provided always, and be it enacted, That no person shall be compelled or compellable to act or serve as such Officer of Health, in any parish or place, for any longer term than one year, nor to act or serve as such officer for any year commencing within three years after the end of any year for which he shall have served as aforesaid.

V. Provided also, and be it enacted, That it shall and

may be lawful for the inhabitant householders of any parish in any county, city, town, or place in Ireland, to elect the Churchwardens of such parish for the time being to be Officers of Health under this Act, in case they shall think fit so to do; and it shall be lawful for such Churchwardens, and they are hereby authorized and required, to act as such Officers of Health accordingly, under the present provisions of this Act.

VI. Provided also, and be it enacted, That where any city or town as aforesaid, containing one thousand inhabitants, or where the Lord Lieutenant or other Chief Governor or Governors of Ireland shall direct this Act to be carried into execution, in case the inhabitant householders in any parish or parishes in such city or town shall neglect or refuse to elect and appoint such Officers of Health, within such time as is required by this Act, or as shall be required by any order of such Lord Lieutenant, or other Chief Governor or Governors, it shall and may be lawful for the Justices of the Peace assembled at the quarter sessions, or any adjournment thereof, for the county, city, or town within which such parish shall be situate, and the said Justices are hereby authorized and required, to appoint such Officers of Health in and for such parish, and also at the same time to appoint and limit what sum shall be raised by assessment on such parish for the purposes of this Act, and such sum shall and may be raised and levied accordingly, in like manner as any other parish assessments, and as if the same had been authorized by the vestries of such parishes, and shall be applied and accounted for in manner herein before directed.

VII. And be it further enacted, That it shall and may be lawful for any one or more of the persons so to be appointed Officers of Health, and he and they is and are hereby authorized, empowered, and required,

to cause and direct all streets and lanes, and all yards and courts adjoining thereto, and all houses let in several tenements to room-keepers, and the yards, gardens, or places belonging to such houses, to be cleansed and purified, and all nuisances prejudicial to health to be removed therefrom; and all public sewers to be cleansed, and where necessary, to be covered over, and all lodgments of standing water to be filled up or drained off; and also to cause and direct all other matters and things to be done for the ventilation, fumigation, and cleansing of any house whatever, in which fever or other contagious distemper shall have occurred, and for the washing and purifying the persons and clothes of the inhabitants of every such house, as shall appear to any such Officer of Health to be indispensably necessary for the preservation and security of the inhabitants of such parish against the danger of contagion, unless due precautions shall have previously been taken for such purposes by the inhabitants of such house; and it shall be lawful for all Constables and Peace Officers, and they are hereby authorized, empowered, and required, to be aiding and assisting to such Officers of Health in the doing all matters and things whatsoever in the execution of this Act.

VIII. And be it further enacted, That in any parish or parishes in any city or town where any such Officers of Health shall be appointed as aforesaid, and where no power or authority is or shall be vested in or given to magistrates or corporation of such city or town, to regulate the sweeping and cleansing of the streets therein, and the collecting and disposing of the dirt, dung, and filth of the said streets, and also in any city or town whatever, where the scavengers or other persons who shall be entrusted with or contract for the cleansing and sweeping of the streets, under the direction of the magistrates or corpora-

tion or not, shall neglect or omit to cleanse and sweep the streets and lanes of such city or town, twice at least in every week, it shall and may be lawful for such Officers of Health to cause and direct such streets to be swept and cleansed, and the dirt, dung, and filth collected from the same to be sold and disposed of, and the produce thereof to be applied for the purposes of this Act, and in diminution of the charge on the parish for which such officers shall be appointed: provided always, that in all cases where the magistrates or corporation of any city or town have or shall have power and authority to regulate the sweeping or cleansing of the streets, or where any scavenger or other person shall be appointed or shall have contracted for that purpose, the said Officers of Health shall give twenty-four hours notice to the chief magistrate of such city or town, and to the scavenger or other person contracting for the cleansing of such streets, of the neglect or omission to sweep and cleanse the same; and that at the expiration of such twenty-four hours, in case the said streets shall not be duly swept and cleansed, it shall be lawful for the said Officers of Health to cause the same to be swept and cleansed, and the produce thereof to be disposed of as aforesaid, any act, charter, law, usage or custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

IX. And for the preventing the danger of contagion and other evils, from the unrestrained intercourse of strolling beggars, vagabonds, and idle poor persons seeking relief; be it enacted, That from and after the passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful for any one Justice of the Peace within his jurisdiction, or for any Churchwarden of any parish in any city, town, or place in Ireland, or for any Officer of Health appointed in any parish in pursuance of this Act, and they are hereby respectively empowered and required, to apprehend all idle poor persons, men, women, or children, and all persons who

may be found begging or seeking relief, or strolling or wandering as vagabonds within any parish or place, and to direct and cause all such idle persons, beggars, and vagabonds to be removed and conveyed out of and from such parish and place, in such manner and to such place as the nature of the case may require; and it shall and may be lawful for any such Justice of the Peace, upon his own view, or upon the complaint of any Churchwarden or Officer of Health to commit any such strolling beggar or vagabond, or idle poor person, to any bridewell or house of correction, or other public place of confinement, for any time not exceeding twenty-four hours previous to their removal or departure out of such parish; and it shall and may be lawful for any Churchwarden or Officer of Health in such parish, during such period of twenty-four hours, to cause the persons and clothes of such idle poor persons, beggars, or vagabonds so committed, to be washed and cleansed; and it shall be lawful for the Justices of any county, city, or town assembled at any Quarter Sessions or adjournment thereof, to constitute and appoint any suitable unoccupied building to be a bridewell or place of confinement for such idle persons, beggars, and vagabonds, with the consent and approbation of the owner for such purpose accordingly; and every beadle, constable, and peace officer within their respective districts or jurisdictions, shall be and hereby required to be assistant to the said Justices of the Peace, Churchwardens, and Officers of Health, in such apprehension, and confinement, and treatment of such idle poor persons, beggars, and vagabonds, pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

X. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons shall resist or oppose any Justice of Peace, Churchwarden, or Officer of Health, in the execution of the powers

of this Act, or in the doing or performing of any matter or thing in the execution of this Act, every such person or persons so guilty of resisting or opposing shall, on conviction thereof before any two Justices of the Peace or Magistrates within their jurisdiction, on the oath or affirmation of any one or more credible witness, or on the confession of the party so offending, incur such penalty, not less than ten shillings nor more than five pounds, as such Justices of the Peace or Magistrates shall in their discretion think proper to adjudge and inflict; or in failure of making payment of such fine, such offenders shall and may be committed to the common gaol or house of correction for any time not exceeding three calendar months: and no such conviction shall be quashed for informality, nor shall be removed or removable by *certiorari* or otherwise, nor subject to any appeal whatever.

XI. And be it further enacted, That if any action shall be brought against any person or persons for any thing done in the execution of any of the powers or duties by this Act given or required, the defendant or defendants may in every such suit plead the general issue, and give this Act and the special matter in evidence; and in every case where the plaintiff or plaintiffs in such suit shall fail, the Court in which such suit shall be carried on, shall award costs to the defendant or defendants.

No. XXI.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A GENERAL BOARD
OF HEALTH IN IRELAND.

BY THE LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL

AND

GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

TALBOT.

WHEREAS it is deemed expedient that a General Permanent Board of Health should be formed in the city of Dublin, for the purpose of inquiring into the state of the public health, and of ascertaining the causes, which may, at any time, tend to injure or improve it—We do hereby nominate and appoint John David La Touche, Peter La Touche, William Disney, Robert Perceval, M. D. George Renny, M. D. Philip Crampton, Esqrs. Rev. James Horner, John Cheyne, M. D. Samuel Bewley, William Harding, Thomas Crosthwaite, John L. Maquay, Francis Barker, M. D. and Francis Lear, Esqrs. to be a Board of Health, for the above purposes accordingly.

Given at His Majesty's Castle of Dublin,
the 27th day of March, 1820.

By His Excellency's Command,
(Signed) C. GRANT.

PLAN OF
REGULATIONS
FOR THE GUIDANCE OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH ;

AS COMMUNICATED TO THE BOARD BY MR. GRANT.

1st. To obtain the earliest information respecting the appearance of epidemic disease, either of foreign or domestic origin; to trace it in its progress, and to ascertain the causes of its rise and diffusion.

2d. To collect information from intelligent individuals in every part of the kingdom, including Members of Parliament, the Clergy of different denominations, Magistrates, and Governors of Hospitals and Dispensaries, on the actual condition of the poor, and the circumstances which affect their health, as to locality, occupation, state of dwellings, supply of fuel, food, clothing, or education.

3d. To digest the information thus collected into a methodical form so contrived, that, by contrasting the state of the poor in different districts, it shall afford a just estimate of the operative causes of disease.

4th. To obtain authenticated reports on the measures

used in other countries, to secure the public health, together with an account of their success, so that if it shall be deemed expedient, similar measures may be adopted in this country.

5th. To procure statements from different parts of Ireland, on the means which have been lately resorted to, in order to obviate sickness, and to ascertain those causes which have principally contributed to success or failure.

6th. To inquire into the organization of hospitals intended for the relief of contagious disease, in order to adapt them to existing circumstances; and, as far as possible, to bring such institutions under a general system of improved regulation.

7th. To ascertain the places where Dispensaries are established; how they are governed; how the medical duties are discharged, and what benefits the poor derive from them; and to acquire correct information as to the state and management of their funds.

8th. To be a medium of communication between charitable Institutions for the prevention of sickness in different parts of the kingdom; to supply information, as to the best modes of conducting such establishments, so that each may avail itself of the experience of the rest, and be instructed as to the best and most direct modes of obtaining its object.

9th. To communicate information to Government on all the preceding topics; and to present a general report at stated periods, on the result of such inquiries.

10th. To submit for the consideration of the Government, such measures of police as are likely to improve the public health, and require the sanction of the executive Government, or the support of positive law.

10th. To submit for the consideration of the Government such measures of policy as are likely to improve the public health, and require the sanction of the Government, or the support of public opinion.

INDEX.

- Act of Parliament*, to establish Fever Hospitals in Ireland, vol. 2, p. 213.—
To establish regulations for preventing Contagious Diseases in Ireland,
p. 366.
- Addresses*, to the Poor of Ballytore for prevention of Fever, vol. 2, p. 361.
- Advice*, important to the Public, p. 234, vol. 2.
- Alarm*, excited by Fever in Dublin, vol. 1, p. 60, 61.
- Antrim*, Dr. Clarke's Account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 117.
- Armagh*, Account of Fever in, by Dr. Ryan, vol. 1, p. 341, 346.—Dr.
Clarke's Account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 118.
- Army* in Ireland, the health of, a better criterion of the health of the com-
munity in the latter part of last century than now, vol. 1, p. 10.—Health of,
improved in 1798 during the contests with the insurgents, p. 11.—Losses
sustained by, in the latter end of 1798, and in 1800, p. 13, 14.—Health
of, excellent in 1802, p. 19.—Table of acute diseases of, for five years from
1815 to 1819, p. 71-2.—Table of effective men and deaths in, from 1797
to 1819, p. 73.—Table of mortality in, for 1818 and 1819, p. 77.—Suf-
fered comparatively little from Fever in 1817 and 1818, p. 80.
- Ballina*, Account of Fever in, by Dr. Faussett, vol. 1, p. 327.
- Ballymena*, Account of Fever in, by Dr. Young, vol. 1, p. 360.
- Ballytore*, Account of Fever in, by Dr. Davis, vol. 1, p. 387.
- Barker*, Dr. his Report of Fever in Munster, vol. 2, p. 10.—Account of in
Waterford, p. 13.—Cork, p. 25.—Kerry, p. 35.—Limerick, p. 39.—Tip-
perary, p. 43.—Returns from Fever Hospitals attached to his report, p. 48
to 67.
- Barry*, Dr. M. Observations by, on Medical Topography of Cork, vol. 1, p.
285.
- Belfast*, Fever among married soldiers at, in 1801, vol. 1, p. 18.

Black, Dr. of Newry, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 553.
Bleeding, Observations on, vol. 1, p. 167, 261, 351, 376, 441, 457, 492.
Boyle, Account of Fever in, by Dr. Verdon, vol. 1, p. 319.
Bracken, Dr. his Report of Hospital at Waterford, during 1817, 18, and 19, vol. 1, p. 182.
Brady, Mr. of Carrick-on-Shannon, letter from, to Editors, vol. 1, p. 310.
Bread, bad quality of from grain, of 1816, vol. 1, p. 32.
Burke, Dr. of Dundrum, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 384.

Cape Clear, Island of, comparatively free from Fever during 1816, 17, and 18, vol. 1, p. 99.

Carlow, Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 144.

Carnew, account of Fever in, by Dr. De Renzy, vol. 1, p. 391.

Carrick-on-Shannon, account of Fever in, by Mr. Brady, vol. 1, p. 310.

—————*on-Suir*, account of Fever in, by Mr. Grady, vol. 1, p. 179.

Cases of remarkable gangrene with fatal termination, vol. 1, p. 232 to 236.—Do. ending in recovery, p. 236 to 240.—Of relapses in which petechiæ appeared during first attack, p. 242.—In which epistaxis appeared to contribute to amendment, p. 249.—Of glandular inflammation and suppuration, p. 253.

Catarrh, epidemical, prevalent during Epidemic Fevers of 1740 and 1819, vol. 1, p. 7.—Became epidemical in summer of 1803, p. 20.

Cavan, report of Fever in, by Dr. Murray, vol. 1, p. 368.—Dr. Clarke's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 123.

Cheyne, Dr. his report of Fever in Leinster, vol. 2, p. 136.—Account of in Wicklow county, ib.—In Wexford, ib.—Carlow, p. 144.—Kilkenny, ib.—Queen's county, ib.—Kildare, ib.—Westmeath, 150.—Longford, ib.—King's county, ib.—Meath, p. 156.—Louth, ib.—Dublin, 159.—Recapitulation of report, p. 164.—Concluding observations, p. 166.—Returns of Fever Hospitals attached to his report, p. 172 to 189.

Clare, Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 78.

Clarke, Dr. his report of Fever in Ulster, vol. 2, p. 113.—Account of in Down county, ib.—Antrim, p. 117.—Armagh, p. 118.—Monaghan, p. 120.—Tyrone, p. 121.—Derry, p. 122.—Donegal, p. 123.—Fermanagh, ib.—Cavan, ib.—Recapitulation of report, p. 124.—Returns attached to his report, p. 128 to 135.

Clergy, exertions of, during prevalence of Fever, vol. 1, p. 101.—Roman Catholic, great sufferers from contagion, p. 135, 138, 422.

Committee, Central of Health, names of, vol. 2, p. 302.—Duties of, 303.—Letter from to Mr. Gregory, p. 306.—Reply to Do. p. 307.

————— Managing of Fever Hospital Cork-street, letter from to Mr. Grant, on means of checking Fever in 1818, vol. 2, p. 242.

————— of Whitworth Fever Hospital, letter from, on Do. p. 273.

————— of Governors of Sir Pat. Dun's, letter from on Do. p. 264.

- Commons*, report from Select Committee of, on the state of disease in Ireland, vol. 2, p. 2.—Do.—On Contagious Fever in Ireland, p. 197.
- Constitution* Epidemic, in Ireland, commencement of an, in 1797, and termination in 1803, vol. 1, p. 9.—Has prevailed over a great part of Europe during a series of past years, p. 59.
- Contagion*, agency of, in extending Fever, p. 134.—Active amongst the poor, ib.—Also amongst medical attendants, p. 135, 138.—Remarks on by Dr. Bracken, p. 272.—By Dr. Barry, p. 296.—By Dr. Verdon, p. 325.—By Dr. Young, vol. 1, p. 365.—Latent period of, p. 472.
- Conaught*, Dr. Crampton's report of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 68.—Return of patients admitted into Hospitals in during the late Epidemic Fever, p. 106.
- Cork*, poor of much distressed in 1800, vol. 1, p. 16.—House of Industry, Foundling Hospital, and Jail at, exempted from Fever, p. 96-7.—Dr. Hallaran's account of Fever in, p. 281.—Medical topography of, p. 235.—Dr. Barker's account of state of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 25.
- Crampton*, Dr. his report of Fever in Conaught, vol. 2, p. 68.—Account of in Galway, ib.—Clare, p. 78.—Roscommon, p. 80.—Mayo, p. 86.—Sligo and Leitrim, p. 91.—Recapitulation of report, p. 96.—Returns attached to his report. p. 106 to 112.
- Crisis* of Fever mode of, p. 211, 439, 455, 483.
- Crops*, failure of in 1816 distressing to the poor, vol. 1. p. 34.
- Davis*, Dr. of Ballytore, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 387.
- De Renzy*, Dr. of Carnew, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 391.
- Derry*, Dr. Clarke's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 122.
- Dietary* of Kilkenny Fever Hospital, vol. 1, p. 408.
- Dispensaries*, letter from Mr. Grant to physicians of, in vicinity of Dublin, vol. 2, p. 281.—Reply to from Newcastle, p. 282.—From Swords, p. 285.—From Bray, p. 289.—From Leixlip, p. 292.—From Rathdown, p. 295.
- Distress*, instances of from Fever in various parts of the country, vol. 1, p. 64.
- Donegal*, Dr. Clarke's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 123.
- Down*, Do. Do. vol. 2. p. 113.
- Dublin*, distress amongst poor of, as great in 1800 and 1801, as in 1817 and 1818, vol. 1, p. 18.—Alarm in, with regard to Fever, p. 61—Measures adopted in, for prevention of Fever, p. 114.—Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 159.
- Dundrum*, account of Fever at by Dr. Burke, vol. 1, p. 384.
- Dysentery*, severe in Ireland in latter end of 1801, p. 19.—Kept pace with Fever in 1818, vol. 1, p. 114.—In Munster, p. 436.—In Leinster, p. 484.
- Epistaxis*, cases of in Fever Hospital at Waterford, in which it appeared to contribute to amendment, vol. 1, p. 249.

- Faussett*, Dr. of Ballina, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 327.
- Fermanagh*, Dr. Clarke's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 123.
- Fever*, Epidemical in Ireland.—Historical sketch during last century, vol. 1, p. 1.—Resemblance between that of 1751 and 1817-18, p. 4.—Ravages by that of 1740, p. 6.—*Short*, of 1741, similar to that of 1818, p. 7.—Of 1771, symptoms of, p. 8.—More malignant amongst the rich than the poor, *ib.*—Becomes fatal in proportion to mental or bodily weakness, p. 9, 15.—Of 1801, the same species of that of 1817-19, p. 20.—Historical sketch of during 1817-19, p. 21.—Causes of, difficult to assign, p. 24.—Of 1684, followed an extraordinary cold winter, p. 25.—Prevalent on the Continent before it visited Ireland, p. 42.—Causes of in 1817, not peculiar to Ireland, p. 46.—Tables of in different parts of Ireland, p. 49, 58.—No distinct evidence of its introduction from the Continent, p. 59.—Of 1816 and 1817, misery occasioned by, p. 62, 68.—Proportion of population afflicted with in 1817 and 1818, as one to four, p. 63.—Table of frequency of in different parts of Ireland, p. 82, 85.—Table of mortality of during the last fifteen years, p. 87.—More fatal to men than to women, p. 90.—Danger from, increases with age of patient, p. 92.—Increased mortality from, not limited to large towns, *ib.*—Periods of greatest prevalence in different provinces, p. 107.—Conaught report of prevalence of, p. 109.—Measures adopted in Dublin for prevention of, p. 114.—Subsidence in Dublin, p. 131.—Duration of in Dublin, limited to two years, p. 133.—Contagious nature of, p. 134, 143.—Peculiarities of in county Roscommon, p. 305.—Account of, as it appeared in Munster, p. 417.—Commencement of in families, often traced to children, p. 418.—As prevalent in remote parts of Ireland as in towns, p. 418.—Mean duration of of, vol. 1, p. 428.—Do. p. 466.—Treatment of, p. 441, 456, 467, 490.
- Fogs*, great in London and Dublin in December 1813, and January 1814, vol. 1, p. 25.
- Food*, Average prices of several kinds in 1816-17-18, vol. 1, p. 37.
- Friends*, Society of, comparatively exempted from Fever, p. 98.—Benevolence and exertions of during the prevalence of Fever, vol. 1, p. 102.
- Frost hard*, O'Connell's account of misery produced by winter of, vol. 1, p. 5.
- Fuel*, Scarcity of, vol. 1, p. 35.
- Galway*, Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 68.
- Gangrene*, remarkable appearances of, in Fever Hospital at Waterford with fatal termination, vol. 1, p. 232, 236.—Do. ending in recovery, p. 236, 240.—In Kilkenny, p. 410.
- Gillichan*, Dr. of Dundalk, death of, vol. 1, p. 103.
- Grady*, Rev. S. of Carrick-on-Suir, extract of letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 179.

- Grain*, how affected by unfavourable seasons, vol. 1, p. 51.
- Grant*, Mr. Secretary, letter from to Magistrates, Clergy, &c. to afford assistance to Dr. Barker during his inspection of Munster, vol. 2, p. 9.—Letter from respecting the progress of Fever in 1818, p. 240.—Circular letter from, to physicians of Dispensaries in the vicinity of Dublin, p. 281.—Letter from to Governors of Fever Hospitals, p. 500.
- Gregory*, Mr. letter from dispensing with the further Meetings of the Central Committee of Health, vol. 2, p. 507.—Letter from to Governors of Fever Hospital Cork-street, p. 515.
- Hallaran*, Dr. of Cork, letter from to Dr. Percival, vol. 1, p. 281.
- Harvests*, of 1816. very poor, vol. 1, p. 51.
- Health*, Boards of—Institution of, vol. 1, p. 115.—Have excited distrust, vol. 2, p. 5.—Proclamation respecting, p. 250.—Letter from Chief Secretary, containing approbation of, p. 252.—General Board of in Ireland, vol. 2, p. 474.
- Hospitals*, list of in Dublin, appropriated for fever patients, vol. 1, p. 121.
- , *Fever*, established in principal cities of Ireland, vol. 1, p. 21.—Table of patients admitted into, from 1805 to 1818, p. 25.—Proportion of deaths to admissions in, p. 94.—Act of Parliament to establish in Ireland, vol. 2, p. 215.—Letters from Managing Committees and Physicians of, to Mr. Grant, p. 242 and 280.
- Hospital*, *Sir P. Dun's*, reports from Committee of, vol. 2, p. 264 and 270.
- , *Whitworth Fever*, reports from Committee and Physicians of, p. 275, 277, vol. 2.
- Huts*, fever, construction of, vol. 1, p. 65.
- Influenza*, prevalent in Ireland in summer of 1803, vol. 1, p. 20.
- Industry*, House of, letter from Governors of to Mr. Grant, vol. 2, p. 251.—Report of Physicians of, p. 260.—Reply of Governors of to Mr. Grant's circular, p. 509.
- Inspectors*, Medical appointed in Dublin, vol. 1, p. 126.
- Italy*, Epidemic Fever prevalent in during 1817, vol. 1, p. 44, 45, 46.
- Kildare*, Dr. Cheyne's account of state of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 144.
- Kilkenny*, account of fever in, by Dr. E. G. Ryan, vol. 1, p. 598.—Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 144.
- King*, Dr. of Tralee, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 174.
- King's County*. Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 150.
- Kerry*, Dr. Barker's account of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 55.
- Labourers*, migration of, a cause of communicating contagion, vol. 1, p. 159-141.

Larrey, Baron,—his description of Epidemic Fever in the French army, during the retreat from Russia, vol. 1, p. 43.

Latent period of Fever, vol. 1, p. 472.

Leinster, Dr. Cheyne's report of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 136.—Number of patients admitted into Hospitals in, during the late Epidemic Fever, p. 192.

Leitrim, Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 91.

Limerick, Dr. Barker's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 39.

Longford, Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 150.

Louth, Do. vol. 2, p. 156.

Lyne, Dr. of Tralee, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 147.

M'Cartney, Dr. of Monivae, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 335.

Mayo, Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 86.

Meath, Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 156.

Mendicants, instrumental in spreading Fever, vol. 1, p. 142, 317, 422.

Mendicity, much increased by severe seasons of 1816 and 1817, vol. 1, p. 40, 105.

Monaghan, Dr. Clarke's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 120.

Money, returns of, distributed among the poor, vol. 2, p. 207 to 212.

Monivae, Dr. M'Cartney's account of fever in, vol. 1, p. 335.

Moriarty, Sir Thomas, his account of Fever in county Roscommon, vol. 1, p. 299.

Mortality, not in proportion to frequency of Fever, vol. 1, p. 88.—Rates of in different provinces, p. 94.—In Waterford during 1818, p. 280.

Munster, account of Epidemic Fever as it appeared in, vol. 1, p. 417.—Dr. Barker's report of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 10.—Number of patients admitted into Hospitals in, during late Epidemic Fever, p. 190.

Murray, Dr. his report of Fever in Cavan, vol. 1, p. 368.

Navan, misery of the poor in vol. 1, p. 104.

Newport, Sir John, successful exertions of, vol. 1, p. 278.

Newry, account of Fever in, by Dr. Black, vol. 1, 353.

Notice, to the public, from Fever Committee Office, Parliament-street, vol. 2, p. 206.

Ophthalmia, a prevalent disease in latter end of 1801, vol. 1, p. 19.—A sequela of Fever, p. 490.

Peel, Mr. Secretary, letter from appointing Dr. Renny, W. Disney, Esq. and the Rev. J. Horner, a Committee to report on applications to Government for pecuniary aid, vol. 2, p. 195.

Perceval, Dr. reports made to Government by, vol. 1, p. 108.

- Perspiration*, often observed to afford no relief in Fever, vol. 1, p. 251.
- Petechiæ*, cases of in Fever Hospital at Waterford, in which they appeared in the first attack of Fever, vol. 1, p. 242.—As observed in Munster, p. 426. Do. in Conaught, p. 454.—Do. in Ulster, p. 465.—Do. in Leinster, p. 483.
- Physicians*, disinterested exertions of many, during the prevalence of Fever, vol. 1, p. 102.—Of Fever Hospital Cork-street, report from to Mr. Grant, vol. 2, p. 247.—Of House of Industry, report from, 260.—Of Sir P. Dun's Hospital, report from, p. 270.—Of Whitworth Hospital, p. 277.
- Plagues*, those that accompanied the civil wars of Ireland were, probably, Epidemic Fevers, vol. 1, p. 1.
- Poor*, sufferings of the, vol. 1, p. 35 and p. 40.
- Population*, proportion of afflicted with Fever in 1817 and 1818 as one to four, vol. 1, p. 63.
- Pox, Small*, mortality from, remarkable during the Epidemics of 1740 and 1817, vol. 1, p. 7.—Of the confluent kind, a concurrent Epidemic with Fever in county Roscommon, during 1817 and 1818, p. 306.—Concurrent with Fever in Newry, 356.
- Pulse*, Table of in Fever Hospital at Waterford, vol. 1, p. 245.
- Queen's County*, Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in, vol. 2, p. 144.
- Rain*, quantity of from 1815 to 1818, vol. 1, p. 30.
- Renny*, Dr. information relative to the sick of the army, derived from, vol. 1, p. 69.
- Relapses*, cases of at Waterford, in which petechiæ appeared in first attack, vol. 1, p. 242.—In Munster, vol. 1, p. 438.—In Conaught, p. 455.—In Leinster, p. 486.
- Report*, Conaught, of prevalence of Fever, vol. 1, p. 109.—Specimen of weekly, of Fever Hospital House of Industry, p. 119.—From Select Committee of House of Commons on state of Disease in Ireland, vol. 2, p. 2.—From Do. on Contagious Fever in Ireland, p. 197.—Of Physicians of House of Industry, p. 260.—Of Committee of Governors of Sir. P. Dun's Hospital, p. 264.—Of Physicians of Do. p. 270.—Of Committee and Physicians of Whitworth Fever Hospital, p. 273 and 277.
- Returns*, attached to Dr. Barker's report on Munster, vol. 2, p. 48 to 67.—Attached to Dr. Crampton's report on Conaught, p. 106 to 112.—Attached to Dr. Clarke's report on Ulster, p. 128 to 135.—Attached to Dr. Cheyne's report on Leinster, p. 172 to 189.—Of number of patients admitted into Hospitals in the several Provinces, p. 191 to 193.—Of total number of patients in all the Provinces, p. 193.—Of sums distributed to the poor in towns and districts where Fever prevailed, p. 207 to 212.
- Riots*, owing to scarcity, not frequent, vol. 1, p. 40.

Roscommon, Sir Thomas Moriarty's account of Fever in county of, vol. 1, p. 299.—Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 80.
Ryan, Dr. E. G. report from, of Fever in Kilkenny, vol. 1, p. 398.
Ryan, Dr. William, of Armagh, letter from, to Editors, vol. 1, p. 341, 346.

Scarlatina, prevailed in Ireland in November 1801, vol. 1, p. 19.
Schools, Hibernian and Marine, at Dublin, comparatively free from fever. vol. 1, p. 96-7.
Sequelæ of Fever, vol. 1, p. 438, 456, 467, 490.
Sligo, Dr. Crampton's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 91.
Society, distressed state of in 1798 favourable to disease, vol. 1, p. 12.
Stokes, Dr. Essay on Contagion by, vol. 1, p. 138.
Symptoms of Epidemic of 1731 similar to those of Epidemic of 1817-18, vol. 1, p. 4.—Of Epidemic of 1740, p. 6.

Table of patients admitted into Fever Hospitals in Ireland, from 1815 to 1818, vol. 1, p. 25.—Of mean height of thermometer from 1815 to 1818, p. 29.—Of quantity of rain from 1815 to 1818, p. 30.—Of average prices of food in 1816-17-18, p. 37.—Of commencement and greatest prevalence of Fever from 1816 to 1819, p. 49-58.—Of acute diseases of army in Ireland from 1815 to 1819, p. 71-2.—Of effective men and deaths in Do. from 1797 to 1819, p. 73.—Of mortality in do. for 1818 and 1819, p. 77.—Of estimated frequency of Fever in different parts of Ireland, p. 82-85.—Of mortality of Fever during the last fifteen years. p. 87.—Of admissions into Fever Hospital Cork-street in 1817, and part of 1818, p. 91.—Of comparative mortality at Waterford, in periods of three months, p. 201.—Of patients admitted into Fever Hospital at Waterford, p. 204.—Of convalescence in Do. p. 209.—Of fatal cases in Do. p. 215.—Of pulse in Do. p. 245.—Of state of Hospital at Kilkenny, till 31st of December 1819, p. 416.

Temperature, of atmosphere, observations on during the years 1815 and 1818 inclusive, vol. 1, p. 25 to 29.

Theories, medical, animadversions on, by Dr. Murray, vol. 1, p. 374.

Tipperary, Dr. Barker's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 43.

Topography, medical, of Cork, vol. 1, p. 285.

Tralee, Dr. Lyne's account of Fever in, vol. 1, p. 147.—Dr. King's Do. 174.

Tullamore, alarm in, with regard to Fever, vol. 1, p. 60.

Ulster, Dr. Clarke's report on Fever in, vol. 2, p. 113.—Return of number of patients admitted into Hospitals in, during late Epidemic, p. 191.

Verdon, Dr. of Boyle, letter from to Editors, vol. 1, p. 319.

Waterford, poor of, miserable in 1800, vol. 1, p. 15.—Report by Dr Bracken of Fever in Hospital at, during 1817-18, and -19, p. 182.—Dr. Barker's account of Fever in city of, vol. 2, p. 13.—Proceedings at, for relief of indigent sick, 526.

Weather, cold and wet in 1816-17. productive of disease, vol. 1, 31, 32. 33.

Westmeath, Dr. Cheyne's account of Fever in county of, vol. 2, p. 150.

Wexford, Do. vol. 2, p. 136.

Wicklowlow, Do. vol. 2, p. 136.

Winters, severe, often followed by Epidemic Fever, vol. 1, p. 25.

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Barker, Francis,

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